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STANDING IN THE KITCHEN

The new brick pizza oven stars in the remake of the catering facility

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THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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WALLACE RISING



WHERE'S WALLACE: The days of waiting for Wallace are drawing to a close. The building will open following President's Day.

PARRISH PRESTON/BR

LUNCHROOM NEARS COMPLETION

By Michael Piana
Staff Writer

Anyone who has been on campus this year has seen the new cafeteria's impressive exterior, but few have had the privilege to go inside. The wait ends this month when the building opens the week

following President's Day. Like the wait for Lowry, this wait has been well worth it, as the "New Wallace" building is sure to exceed expectations.

The interior of the cafeteria is magnificent. As in the Dead Poets Society Room, dark wood was used in the tables, chairs, and walls to create a much classier

atmosphere than Frist Hall. At the front of the room, there is a large fireplace surrounded entirely by white walls. The walls will also be adorned with glass panels covered by lists of all graduates' names. In the serving area, food will be served on silver tables that are designed to facilitate

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Concussions threaten to reduce football participation

By Ian Scholer
Staff Writer

Less than a week after his re-inauguration, President Obama issued the following statement in an interview with *New Republic* magazine: "I'm a big football fan, but I have to tell you, if I had a son, I'd have to think long and hard before I let him play football."

He was referring to the danger of concussions, and echoing what parents of potential football players around the country have been thinking. There is overwhelming evidence that concussions can cause brain damage. Despite all the new concussion evidence, however, football still reigns as the most popular and participated-in high school sport.

Each parent has to make a decision before letting his or her son risk a concussion and participate in football.

Football participation has not significantly fallen yet, but parents could become more cautious as more evidence surfaces. Parents will have the final say as to whether football follows the route of boxing and slowly disappears into the shadows of the sports world, or whether it remains the most popular sport in the country. There are two sides playing out

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GOING VIRAL



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History department gains new classrooms

By Tarun Mallipeddi
Opinions Editor

The history department will officially be moving into the new classrooms on the top floor of the "New Wallace" building on February 18th.

There will be eight classrooms, including a seminar room on the second floor. All of the history teachers from the third floor of the Carter building will be getting new classrooms, along with Mr. Lester, who currently teaches on the bottom floor of Lowry. Mr. Gioia, Dr. Seay and Mr. Norton will also all be teaching their classes in the seminar room on the second floor of the building.

The classrooms themselves will resemble those of the Lowry building,

with the same layout, chairs and built-in furniture. All of the rooms are larger than those of the Carter building. Dry erase boards in the new building will replace the chalkboards of old.

The history department's move to the new Wallace building is rendered

NEW CLASSROOMS

South Hall (facing field)

31	Seminar Room
33	Dr. Bailey
35	Dr. Boyd

North Hall (facing Harding)

30	Mr. Herring
32	Mr. Webb/Mr. Simpson
34	Mr. Lundgren
36	Mr. Lester

appropriate by the building's homage to history. A total of twenty-four panels depicting Nashville and Tennessee history, chosen in part by Dr. Bailey, are being placed in the building on the south hallway.

Dr. Bailey, speaking for the history department, is excited for the chance to teach in new Wallace. He said, "While sad to leave Carter, we all are ecstatic about the opportunity to have larger classrooms and to be in such a beautiful building."

The foreign language department will be taking over all the newly vacated classrooms in the top floor of Carter. Once the transition is complete, every department at MBA will have a separate building. Carter may also be refashioned in the near future to enlarge classrooms, according to Mr. Gioia, but plans have not been finalized.

Sage excited for move to next kitchen

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

As the new dining hall construction ends, excitement surrounds the prospects of a Hogwarts-like hall, ESPN on an enormous projector screen, and an easy commute to and from Lowry. One overlooked benefit has been the building's ability to bring students and faculty alike a state-of-the-art, unparalleled food service experience.

According to Food Service Director and Executive Chef Steve Walsnovich, SAGE serves around 850 people daily at MBA. The space where SAGE has been working, however, has made serving such a number a difficult, congested task. With the new dining hall, Walsnovich looks forward to a more spacious food service area.

The kitchen staff will be using a collection of new equipment, and the food service staff will have dedicated work areas. The majority of the kitchen will be located on the bottom floor of the building. Walsnovich said, "Most of our preparations will be done in the lower kitchen. We will then transport to the upper kitchen and finish the cooking process." The new kitchen will feature two large walk-in refrigerators and one large walk-in freezer.

The new building also boasts several dish-related improvements. A new "tray accumulator system" from Aerowerks has a carousel on which diners "will simply need to place their soiled dishes, cutlery, and glassware on the trays and away they go." A trough then collects used dishes and rinses them. Food and other solid waste will be collected in a basket to be disposed of. The dining hall will also transition from paper cups to washable tumblers for beverages.

Walsnovich claims that these changes to the dining ware system will benefit the environment and the efficiency of service. "The new servery will be more open and user-friendly. The variety of foods that we will be offering will be spread further apart. This should help with the long lines and waiting."

SAGE will also be able to expand the menu in its new facility. There will be a greater variety of options to choose from and a more modern presentation of the food. The "authentic pizzeria style brick oven" will provide a daily variety of pizzas and pasta dishes, such as stromboli and calzones. Walsnovich also said that the food service will be able to arrange more stations like an Asian Rice Bar and that the Improvisation Bar and Deli Bar will be larger.

Over Presidents' Day weekend, Walsnovich and his staff will move some of their current equipment into the new facility. According to Walsnovich, "There is a lot to do, but I am confident we can meet the challenge and start a new era of dining at MBA."

Dining Hall Preview



PARRISH PRESTON/BR

IT'S CHANDE-HERE: The construction in the new dining hall enters its finishing stages with the installation of chandeliers

New dining hall promises improved amenities

>> DINING HALL, 1

the flow of students.

The look of the dining hall is certainly important, but there are other factors that will make the new building enjoyable for all. The serving and dining areas are both larger than the ones in Frist and will allow for more comfort during lunch. The rectangular tables will be arranged in rows that run the length of the building. This design will end the constant squeezing between chairs to get to a table with friends.

The massive television in Frist will be replaced by an even bigger projector screen that will, of course, be playing ESPN. The high table, which will be situated near the fireplace, will appear for special events. Mr. Gioia hinted that seniors may be allowed to sit at this table for the first few weeks after the opening. Possibly the most exciting installment in the new building is the pizza oven which is visible in the serving area. Located next to the oven is a pithy quotation from Yogi Berra. It reads, "You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six."

New Wallace also contains history classrooms and another upscale room to be used like the Gibbs Room. The building also has the potential to be used for many school functions such as team dinners and the prom dinner for seniors. Mr. Gioia said that the dining could be used for wedding rehearsal dinners and a variety of other events for people in the MBA community. The completion of construction in the middle of campus will ease travel from building to building but will also open doors to a much better lunchroom. Although there is no replacing the beloved W15, New Wallace comes close.

After dining hall, no more major changes

Next large projects years away

By Davis Lovvorn
Assistant Features Editor

With the completion of the new yet-to-be-named dining hall after President's Day weekend, many students have wondered what changes are next for the campus/Big Red empire. From a domed football stadium to an armed invasion of Ensworth's lower school campus, many rumors have circulated through the student body.

The *Bell Ringer* regrets to inform you that a series of smaller changes are much more likely.

With regards to football, there have been whisperings of changes to the football and lacrosse stadium. When asked about these changes, Headmaster Brad Gioia said that there would be no changes anytime soon. "We can't do anything until we raise the money."

Additionally, rumors of a building on Kimpalong and Vine Street have been rampant. Yet the Kimpalong expansion will not happen due to the fact that it is deemed a historic site.

There are no current plans for Vine Street to speak of, nor are there any plans to expand the campus further.

Instead, MBA plans to do more work on campus. The athletic area, gymnasium and Long Mountain will become the main centers for improvement.

In addition, the music department has a plan to move into the area formerly known as the Frist Dining Hall. "I love music as a part of life at MBA," said Mr. Gioia. "It is strategically good that music will be at the center of MBA."

Also, much-needed improvements to the swimming arrangements at MBA will be made. "We are working with groups in town for swimming," stated Mr. Gioia.

"It is still in negotiation, but this is a top priority for us."

Finally, Mr. Gioia wants students to be aware about the sustainability recognitions, including two LEED gold certifications, that Lowry and "Not-Wallace" have received. "We hope that students become more sensitive about sustainability, knowing that the school is," said Mr. Gioia. "We have also begun to notice major cost-saving in our utility bill."

Thus, for the time being, the many major construction projects that students have become accustomed to will fall quiet. Although plans for a new football stadium exist, the actual construction remains years away, and any talk of campus expansion is unfounded.

After the new dining hall is completed, major construction on campus will be supplanted by minor projects.

New Serving Line Preview



PARRISH PRESTON/BR

BOLD LINES: The new serving and kitchen space will bring MBA dining into this millenium in a big way.

Admissions offices move to Ball basement, receive facelift

By Sam Weien
Business Manager

The admissions offices have recently moved from their relatively small workspace on the main floor of Ball to a new, more spacious area on the bottom floor of the same building.

When the Lowry Building opened, Mr. McMahan and Mr. Webb's offices were moved there, leaving an unused space at the bottom of Ball. Mr. Gioia proposed the relocation of admissions offices last year after realizing the opportunity to use the space in the bottom of the building.

Over the past summer, the area underneath Ball was converted to its current state. The tile floors were gutted and replaced with hardwood, the offices were renovated, and the room is much more organized.

Mrs. Lechleiter says that the new space "has really streamlined the admissions process." One of the biggest advantages for every member of the department is that now all the offices are in close proximity. Coach Sanders and Coach Bryant are now able to work in unison with Mr. Ferrell and Mrs. Lechleiter throughout the admissions process.

In addition, the finance department, which admissions frequently collaborates with, is located down the hall.

The space itself has been exceptionally upgraded during the process as well. There is now a conference room to meet with prospective parents, a storage closet for old records, an online ISEE-Testing room and a more welcoming atmosphere for prospective students.

In addition, Mrs. Lechleiter says, "there is a much better ambiance in the office." Larger plasma screen TVs, a helpful Keurig Coffee Machine and more pictures of the daily lives of MBA students all helps boost the décor of the room.

The rooms on the main floor of Ball are not sitting idle. Instead they have been converted into a compact meeting space for small department gatherings. A table and chair have been installed so a few people can gather for a casual meeting. The space has become a multi-purpose room at the center of campus.

However, Mrs. Lechleiter says that her favorite aspect of the conversion has been seeing the new office become a better area for kids. The room has even been revamped for a greater influx of students.

Students from all grades flow into the new workspace to see the friendly admission staff and maybe even get some candy. The area is more spread out and there are seats to accommodate students. The renovations have made the admissions office a welcoming environment.

Mrs. Lechleiter states that, "the new office is so comfy and inviting that everyone wants to be here."

LEEDing the way

A year after construction, Lowry proves environmentally friendly

By Nolan Spear
Staff Writer

At the close of last year, Lowry Hall received a "Gold Certification" from the LEED for Schools Certification Program of the United States Green Building Council, the second highest certification achievable.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and the program "grades" the environmental friendliness of newly constructed buildings all over the country. The program inspects all aspects of the buildings and determines whether they benefit the environment in a positive or negative way. The buildings are graded on a 110-point scale and must earn a 40 minimum to reach a LEED certification; Lowry Hall scored between

60 and 79 points, achieving Gold standard.

The building itself has many different aspects that make it worthy of its Gold certification, according to Erica Weeks of the William Hastings Company, which constructed Lowry. These include:

Water Usage: The toilet use approximately 20% less water and the urinals use approximately 80% less water than that of normal restrooms. The toilets in Lowry save approximately 103,630 gallons of potable water per year.

Construction Waste: 80% of the waste produced by Lowry's construction was not sent to a landfill.

Regional Material Use: 22% of materials used in construction were purchased within 500 miles of MBA. These purchases help benefit construction supply companies in the surrounding Tennessee

area and cut down on energy wasted for transportation.

Geothermal Energy: The building uses geothermal wells installed beneath the lower fields in order to reduce its dependence on the city energy grid.

Lighting Timers: Timers regulate the amount of light the building uses, saving energy by ensuring that lights are not left on overnight.

These are not all the features of Lowry that benefit the environment, but they make up the bulk of its "green" components. These environmentally friendly features make Lowry Hall stand out among other buildings on campus and make it worthy of its Gold LEED Certification.

Anne Potter Wilson room undergoes renovation

By John Triplett
Staff Writer

Construction has begun in the Anne Potter Wilson Room, the latest section of campus to be renovated. Colonel Sharbel, the manager for the completion of this project, has confirmed that it is being completely overhauled.

Many new features such as new audio-visual set ups, groups of furniture conducive to studying and even smart whiteboards will create a new ambiance

and make the room more useful for student collaboration. In addition, the room will be outfitted with a new paint job, new carpet, and new window blinds.

Colonel Sharbel has called this new room an "innovation center" and said that the room will be "a purpose-built space specifically for collaborative planning." The remodeling of this room is based off of other "innovation centers" used by companies and universities, such as Vanderbilt University.

Once the project reaches completion near the end of the third quarter,

the room will be open to students, alums and faculty to work together for project and event planning. The ideas for Homecoming or Endada could originate in this room.

This space will be highly adaptive to the needs of any group and will have many features that will be very helpful for teamwork. Overall, the Anne Potter Wilson room will become a much better place for collaboration, as it will be more attractive and conducive to the needs of students, faculty, alums and the greater MBA community.

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Common App revised for coming year



MAC LIFE: Mr. Mackey gets a head start on his college process which will be radically different from that of the current seniors with the upcoming changes to the Common Application.

TOM BU/BR

By Will Singer
Staff Writer

The Common App, as its name implies, is a common application for all high school students applying to college. Servicing nearly 3 million students every year and hosting an application for almost 500 colleges, the website is an important tool for college applicants. The Common App has recently released details of its fourth version that will be launched the first of August.

The new version has many

innovations and updates to make the application process easier and more attuned to the student. But first and foremost, registering with the Common App will remain free in the new version. After all, college is expensive enough. Version four will also be exclusively online. The app has virtually eliminated paper from the college application process.

The Common App also made a new Single Submission component, which will allow students to submit all applications at once rather than having to individually submit each application. These new aspects

will help the Common App to become more student oriented.

Beyond the small changes to the application, the Common App has also developed new features to tailor the application to the applicant's needs. The updated version has fewer questions per page and the questions are specific to the applicant. As an applicant goes through the questions, the App will tailor the questions only to the areas that apply to that student. If one doesn't fit a category, that category will not be addressed throughout the application. The system's tailoring to the

applicants' interests makes for a more efficient application process and eliminates superfluous questions that do not apply to the applicant.

The essay writing has also immensely changed in the new version. The general college essay has been limited to 4-5 prompts for the applicant to choose from, whereas previously one had the option to write on his own topic or idea.

The new version also eliminates the supplemental essay option, which had been very impactful in a college application. The new version does, however, provide a box in which to copy and paste a supplemental essay.

Version four, which has yet to be released, has some great innovations that can make the college application process much easier and more efficient. The updates are designed to fit the application to the student and better show the college what it needs to see from an application. One fear, however, is that the new streamlined and efficient application process could limit the applicant's ability to showcase who they are in the essays. Next year's projected three million applicants hoping the new version gets them into college will be the deciders of the system's quality.

Applying to MBA: a guide to the long admissions process

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

Every student on campus owes his MBA career to the MBA admissions office, yet few understand or remember the process involved. *The Bell Ringer* analyzed the admissions process, summarizing the long journey of an applicant to MBA.

Admission to MBA begins with inquiries. Those interested in applying to MBA submit inquiries - online forms asking for name, address and other basic identification/contact information. In the second week of August, the Admissions Office, led by Mr. Ferrell and Ms. Lechleiter, sends out the first of many emails to those who have submitted inquiries. These emails include Thursday newsletters discussing opportunities to come to campus and an admission checklist to help families keep track of their status as an applicant to MBA. MBA typically begins receiving inquiries from families two years away from beginning at MBA.

In the first week of September, the Admissions Office sends official application packets out to all inquiries, and continues to send out these packets as it receives more inquiries. It is in the fall that MBA hosts events such as the 42nd Avenue Picnic for prospective families and the MBA Open House. The MBA Carnival also plays a key role from an admissions perspective as an event that draws prospective families and gives them a glimpse at MBA. Smaller events, such as a Williamson County MBA event and an MBA presence at camps and private school fairs serve as auxiliary admissions outlets.

By December, transcript and teacher evaluation requests are given to the

schools of applicants and are returned to MBA in December and January. December and January also are the months of the ISEE (Independent School Entrance Examination) testing. All applications and supporting documents for the upcoming school year are due on February 1st.

On the first Saturday of February, MBA typically hosts the interviews for prospective students. A week later, an applicant folder is compiled for each prospective student. The admissions committee goes through the folders and

office, especially when evaluating high school applications, takes into account the prospective student's extracurriculars (theater, athletics, etc.), in search of students who will contribute positively and profoundly to the MBA community. Mr. Ferrell takes pride in watching the classes he works to form do well during their years on the Hill.

The wait list serves as an option for some students who are not accepted at first but who may be accepted should one of the originally-accepted students

very happy with its new admissions facility. The new space, in the basement of the Ball Building, provides for more mobility and easier communication with Mr. Tim Bryant and Mr. Mike Martin, both members of the Admissions team. A new computer work station room is also a feature of the new space. The computers are used for ISEE testing (for those who are not able to take it with a large group on a designated day) and applying for financial aid.

In order to promote MBA and attract applicants, the Admissions Office conducts advertising through various outlets. Newspaper ads, online city homepage ads, direct mailing, Facebook, Twitter and NPR and 104.5 FM radio ads are several of the advertising markets used. In fact, MBA advertised this year's Open House on the bottom banner of Channel 4 during weather forecasts.

Another canny promotion employed this year is a cell phone screen-cleaner with the MBA logo on it. The cleaning pad is adhesive and showcases the MBA logo on the wipe side. The screen-wipe showcases MBA wherever the phone is visible. The screen-cleaner is distributed on a card which features a QR code directing smartphone users to the MBA Admissions webpage. A major goal of advertising and promotion is directing families to the MBA website.

The process is a long one for the Admissions Office, but a crucial one nonetheless. The Admissions Office establishes the future of MBA through its tireless efforts. In fact, MBA has already sent admissions representatives to a camp fair in Cool Springs to appeal to families for the 2014-15 school year.

“Mr. Ferrell takes pride in watching the classes he works to form do well on the Hill.”

files, grading them on an admissions grading system. The committee later sits down together and discusses each applicant.

The decision letters are typically mailed out on the last Friday of February, but this year will be mailed out on March 1st due to the 2013 calendar. Families then have approximately two weeks to make a decision on signing an enrollment contract with MBA.

When asked how Admissions evaluates applications, Mr. Greg Ferrell, director of Admissions, said that the committee looks at ISEE scores, teacher evaluations, transcripts, standardized tests and the students' interviews. Some students have recommendation letters and have had a formal meeting expressing interest in attending MBA. The admissions

decline to enroll. MBA has a much higher yield than national averages. In this case, the yield is the proportion of students who enroll at MBA after being accepted as part of the original accepted class. For last year's 9th grade, no one was accepted off the wait-list.

For financial aid, the Admissions department uses SSS (School and Student Services) through the NAIS (National Association for Independent Schools) to determine the amount of financial aid for which a family is eligible. MBA, before the contract deadline, notifies families seeking financial aid of the minimum amount that would be available to them, should the amount of financial aid available be a deciding factor for a family looking at schools.

This year, MBA Admissions is

FOUR SILLY MUSTACHES

On sparse facial hair and men's health



ALL IN A BREAK'S WORK: *These four seniors made the bold choice to bring their winter break with them on their upper lips on the first day of the semester. From left to right, Bennett Maxwell, Will Campbell, Jake Simons and Pig Rieke.*

By McKay Proctor
Editor-in-Chief

It was a strange little gathering all around. Four young men with four (rather gross) mustaches gathered before Captain Webb to face judgment. Will Campbell was eventually declared “the winner” (if winning was indeed possible among such a sad assortment of facial hair). Some of those brave souls carried the lip fuzz a few periods into the day before being cut down by watchful eyes and the dreaded one-blade-disposable razor in the Ball bathroom. Their comrades jeered their (fairly creepy) facial hair but lauded the effort.

The way that facial hair became an act of rebellion is not my focus, but it may inform my point in the end. Call it bravery or a pitiful attempt at manhood, but on the morning of Monday, January 7, Jake Simons, Will Campbell, Bennett Maxwell and Pig Rieke unsettled something in me. I walked around for a few days without placing it. Then I saw another mustache and it made sense.

Every October marks a time of unmatched unity of purpose on the Hill in rallying behind the Race for the Cure. For an entire month, the campus unites in honor of mothers and sisters and aunts and friends and teachers that have been affected by breast cancer. Every year - or at least it seems - we as a community smash records and, what could be referred to as “the competition” in leading the state in fundraising. No man could look upon the princely sums handed over in the name of service on that (or any) occasion and deny the presence of a Big Red Charity Machine.

One reason that effort stands out so much must be the strangeness of the idea of it. As an all-male student body, our lives will never be the ones saved. That fact may add to a noble and gentlemanly air around the donation, but it cannot be shaken as counterintuitive.

Whoever heard a thing about prostate cancer? Aside from an annual haphazard attempt to start a Movember campaign dedicated to men's health, I can count the number of times the issue has been mentioned on four fingers.

How strange is that? In a school that dedicates itself to the concept of the Renaissance Man, we fail to acknowledge the condition of a quarter million of our

recently diagnosed brothers every year. By the numbers in a school of 700 boys (with one in six men forecasted to be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives) roughly 117 young men currently reading this newspaper may very well end up diagnosed.

All of this is not to condemn the school's wide focus in helping communities beyond itself, but as an institution that states its purpose as building young men, Montgomery Bell Academy is uniquely positioned both as an educating and fundraising force. Call it protecting your home court. Think of the mountains we could move! The research we could fund! The lives we could change! It's amazing to contemplate that a tiger like this has lain dormant this long.

This brings me back to these four seniors and their funny mustaches. I never said which mustache brought me to this point, but now may be the time. It was an old black-and-white photograph of a young man in tortoiseshell glasses with a round and laughing face. He had a self-assured grin and a wispy spattering of hair on his upper lip. Nothing special, but a mustache to be sure. His name was Franklin Proctor. I knew him as Grandpa Frank. Five years ago, we lost him to Prostate Cancer. Something about the four silly mustaches in Mr. Webb's office brought that all back.

Perhaps it's because there are few things that relay pure virility as well as a thick mustache (see Mr. Kelly's wondrous upper lip from last year for proof), but the mustache in and of itself has become the banner under which the prostate cancer awareness movement rallies. The most famous example would be in the global Movember Movement which encourages a month of unfettered mustache-ing to raise awareness and funds.

That movement has been repeatedly proposed and scuttled on this campus. To be fair, the handbook makes even the burliest of handlebars a demeritable offense, and the number of actually worthy mustache-growers among the student body is limited to the number of students that look like Joe Richardson. The results on a wide scale would be ugly, comical, and pitiful, but they would push us closer to a cure.

The letter of the law and administrative practice have proven over the years that the “clean-shaven” clause

is the most sacrosanct of the dress code. It's rather odd to think that it has been protected so furiously when the rest of the dress code is flipped on and off when the need is there. When we need to raise money for (insert event here) we hop out of our ill-fitted khakis and into casual days. These temporary periods of amnesty provide ample precedent for an extended blind-eye period for a blight that will affect more students than have currently contracted “senioritis.”

Maybe it all comes back to the elegant, though complicated, idea of the gentleman. A young gentleman may not look overly presentable with peach fuzz. This is fact. A gentleman would not let a sixth of his friends be hauled away for no reason either. Nothing is innately ungentelemanly about a mustache. Exemplary gentlemen down the ages (especially those the school canonizes) have sported mustaches with pride - nonetheless gentlemen for their unshaven lips. The model of modern manhood, President Theodore Roosevelt, sported a well-groomed handlebar. Lincoln's beard was one of his calling cards. Mark Twain's smiling face was punctuated by a thick mop of lip hair. Martin Luther King led the Civil Rights movement with a black line of hair above his mouth. Burt Reynolds has built a career around being a devilishly handsome gentleman with a devastating mustache. Even one Sam Davis - BOY hero of the Confederacy, only a few months older than the current seniors - has been placed in portraits depicting him as a guardian of honor with a small though noticeable ‘stache.

If the school is about helping boys transition into men, then why not, if only for a brief time, allow them to embrace the natural byproduct of their testosterone? Sure we will look silly, but is it not a gentleman who can laugh at himself? For a cause no less?

I do not seek full mustache amnesty (at least not at the beginning) but something approaching a compromise with the understanding that we bend the rules for a higher cause. Can one-seventh of the student body not try to save another sixth of their Big Red brothers?

If only to start a dialogue about men's health, I hope those of you reading this disagree with me or (hopefully) agree with me enough to continue the conversation. Will Campbell and Frank Proctor had silly mustaches, and I will forever admire them both.



THE BELL RINGER

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Pardon the quiet

The quiet is coming. An era of continued construction and evolution that has stretched over fifteen years is drawing to a close. When the last truck working dedicated to Wallace's construction drives through the new gates onto Wilson, we open a new chapter, less about expansion than exploration. When Lowry opened, the quick turnaround to the Wallace project left only a brief time for true appreciation of the newness of our "old" new building. The focus for us and in the administrative handling of the situation shifted to the brick superstructure that would be Lowry's sister building. With that shift, there came no break in the noise – a peripheral mainstay of MBA life since the beginning of our growth spurt.

We grew used to the different noises eventually. A dull, ever-present banging was bound to be a part of our growing pains after all. Now, however, quiet is on the horizon. We may be forced to pioneer what the new "business as usual" actually is. The talk is of a new hub on campus and the student body is more than prepared for it. The mountain of brick and mortar and sound we have passed by week after week will now reveal its touted usefulness. The sister buildings will now function as a bridge in complete synergy. Lowry will no longer be an island of novelty beyond waves of construction. The prospects for the school are fabulous, but let's not forget

the quiet.

Quiet, of course, is a relative term. Construction will continue in small doses, but never on the auditory scale of blasting a hole in bedrock for a parking garage or erecting a four-story building. The Davis building will be retrofitted for its new artistic inhabitants. The language department will make changes to the historic floor of Carter, the landscaping around campus will continue to change. Another project may very well come our way once more. Nothing will be as central or intrusive as Wallace.

The construction was also white noise that blocked a school-wide introspection. We will not know who we are as a community until we all have walked though the corridors of New Wallace on our way from Lowry to the quadrangle without the slightest hesitation of wonder. Once we can accept the boundless capabilities of the new facility, then we can look to where we are as a school as the new normal and analyze from there. But the only way that analysis will happen is in the quiet of just another Wednesday morning. The sense of dynamic change on this campus has had a physical totem too long for us to appreciate the same within our community.

Now that the noise will be leaving soon, we may finally find ourselves. Ourselves and the new pizza oven.

Do you like to write, take photos or work on graphic design?

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Contact McKay Proctor, John Mellow or George Swenson if you are interested



Juniors kept abreast of Duke news by Davis Lovvorn, still don't care

Wells Hamilton
Manti Te'o's Girlfriend

Breaking news from *The Bell Ringer's* Social Weather Watch Hub, Harpeth Hall has now returned to the MBA Juniors' radar. We're seeing two recent developments that are converging to build this perfect storm. Firstly, it's Winterim, the time of the year that members of our grade traditionally impress one another by citing their sources on everything they hear about Winterim. "I heard from **Harpeth Hall girl X** that at Harpeth Hall, students are allowed to do activity Y during Winterim. Isn't that ridiculous???" says **generic MBA class of 2014 socialite Z** to everyone he knows, thus definitively proving that he must indeed talk to **Harpeth Hall girl X** on at least a semi-regular basis. Secondly, Winter Formal is approaching. Though there hasn't been much drama approaching this year's formal, there have been rumors circling that "**John Highamming**," the legendary dance craze that only became mainstream for a few hours freshman year before disappearing again, will make its reappearance at the dance. **John Higham**, bobcat specialist and general promoter of global freedom, could not be reached for comment.

In other news, as **Jashon Robertson** sets the precedent by verbally committing to participate in college athletics, others in the grade have also decided to verbally commit. **Luke Cochran** has verbally committed to Alabama on a "Generic Preppy Alabama Fan" scholarship. This interest in higher education occurred only recently after Duck Dynasty organized a hostile takeover of his duck call racket. **Tristan Chari** has verbally committed to Stanford University on an athletic scholarship...not necessarily



THROWING BOWS: Chumly Juniors posted up with the majority rocking bow ties.

for any specific sport, but just kind of to be a strong looking guy to have around campus. College counseling recommends rice buckets for anyone looking to pursue this route.

A recent development in the 37205 has left many juniors elated and eager. Belle Meade announces plans to build the first ever (this will probably spread to Brentwood) inner suburban dude ranch! **William Holbrook** promptly celebrated by buying a new Keith Urban album. **Murphy Smiley**, on the other hand, celebrated with a deep fried moon pie, because counting calories (counting in general) is for Yankees. However, not everyone is for this initiative. **DJ Mott** finds the dude ranch to be an insult to "boot culture," a phenomenon at MBA that is not to be confused with "strapping-pots-and-pans-to-your-feet-to-make-you-appear-taller-and-louder" culture. **Emily Evans** is said to have fought this project, leaving the overlap between Harding Elites and Belle Meade Cowboys up in arms once



FOR SCALE: JMG takes in the proportions of the new building.

more. Several have even gone so far as to challenge the local politician to a game of church basketball.

Speaking of church basketball, how's your fantasy team doing? Football is nearing a close, an end that is met with a range of emotions. **Davis Lovvorn**, local wannabe-demagogue and ardent Duke Fan, finds himself with a revived vigor to talk about basketball till your ears fall out. There was brief movement to remove Davis to the library, but the Geneva Conference ruled "auditory minecraft themed torture" to be unethical. *The Bell Ringer* agrees.

Now your winner for the **Grey Reams** twitter joke of the issue!

Something something something social awareness meeting reference #easymac #blessed

Freshmen excited to eat underneath floor of new dining hall

By Werner Bradshaw
Deer Antler Spray Enthusiast

After a slow first semester, the freshman class seems to be on the rebound in the second.

Exams finally separated the strong from the weak. **Daniel Bishop** is obviously part of that "weak" group, scoring a sub-par 100% on his Latin II Honors examination. I guess Honors just isn't for everyone.

The basketball season is well underway. Unfortunately, **Diggs Truitt** is injured. On the bright side, **Gray Adelman** is having a stellar year, along with **Jordan Wilson**, **Carson Talbott**, **Carter Lovvorn**, **Chapman Malone** and everyone else that contributes to the freshman basketball squad. Especially Mr. West.

After a fun-filled winter break, the freshman wrestlers have been working very hard lately. **Mark Floyd** doesn't eat meals anymore. **D'On Coofer**, **John Kelly**, **Sam Curry**, **Carter Heckle**, **Sam Sullivan** and many others are having a great year on the mat.

I don't really know how the hockey team has been doing, but I do know that **Russell McGinn** is in the running for MVP. I also know that **Connor Downey** is a great hockey player.

Brinton Hoover, **Grayson Lester**, **Jackson Wooten** and probably some more people are on the bowling team. So next time you see them make sure that you congratulate them on their five star season.

By far the biggest news in recent memory is that **Jack Malone** and his girlfriend Ashley broke up. Ashley claims it was a mutual decision, but we all know that Jack was really the one who broke up with her. Hopefully this break up won't keep him out of football this year.

I know I speak for every freshman when I say that I am very pumped for the next mixer. I'd like to thank **Adam Young** and **Carter Lovvorn** for their extraordinary work in planning this mixer. And just as a reminder, everyone mark the date February 8th on your calendar, as it is the date of the mixer and basketball game. Tons of ladies will be there. Tons.

Also, if you have accomplished anything that you want the world to know about, just contact me, and I'll make sure I include you in the next issue.

Yavin Alwis.



CLASSY: Nolan knows how to treat a lady. Good look, Nolan.

Sophomores caught in existential funk, love Sosa

By Owen Powell
Laziest of Staff Writers

"Jay has bright pants." - **Henry Rogers**

I think quotations are very important in terms of motivation. The quotation above comes from our very own **Henry Rogers**. Very motivational. He of course was talking about our young frat bro **Jayysoon Thomas** who still has got that smile all over his face. **Mac Mackey** showed out at Winter Formal causing quite the hubbub; similarly **Davis (Davus) Luster** had an after party shocker. Shouts out to **James Owen**, **Jess Darnell**, **Wilson Flack** and **Cole Jones** for always going the hardest at all the dances; if you never saw them. then you missed out. **Haynes Young** did nothing notable.

In the Twitter world numerous off the wall tweets and accounts have been going off. None of these have managed to be quite as popular as the one parodying that person we all know in our grade who is #big #and #bad. #GetSaucy #BBJ. Also on Twitter, **Mene Zua's** tweets really speak to people of all different situations, follow him for some motivational tweets.

In the *Water World* **Chatham Dobbs** has silently been one of the most impressive athletes in the grade by winning



I SWEAR GUYS!: Mac Mackey recently cited this picture as evidence that he had a growth spurt. We aren't buying it. Maybe next year, champ.

regions in numerous events. He'll compete in the state meet along with several others, in Knoxville TN. He won the backstroke last year and hopefully is going to go back-to-back. Chatham is so good at swimming that he wants to go spear fishing in the Virgin Islands or Costa Rica. **Andrew Porter**, **Wren McFadden** and **Louis Brown** are all contemplating tagging along.

Oh, and about twitter again -- this is very important -- #HypeForGeoff has gone wild. Some might ask, why are people Hype for Geoff? Who knows. Oh, and also **Jermaine Francis II** got a lil PT up on varsity B-ball along with Joe and Geoff.

As you saw, I said Chatham was *one of* the most impressive athletes. That is because we are blessed with a Hockey player named **Jackson Garey**. Number 23 on the ice - and it may be cliché - but number 1 in our hearts. He is a game changer and some might even call him unstoppable. Shout out to **Lien** and **Tusie** for going fishing and not casting a single time. Lien aka **Grill Master Miagi** took care of business though.

Well, that's all the imminent and notable news that I've got in my head. Keep it classy and as always, Chew Big Red Gum.

Seniors like the way you die, boy

By Macdaddy H

Up-and-coming R&B Crooner

The senior slide is real. Whether due to a wave of hard tests or the first half of the quarter or a general lack of gaf-ing, grades are dropping across the board for the senior class. Even **Adam Bowman** is struggling, as evidenced by his decreasingly clever puns.

Like **Adam**, every one of us has a particular way we like to slide. Some slide with Netflix. **Galen Bullington**, **Andrew Graham** and I slide with Simon. **Conner Griffin** says he slides butt naked. **Nick Green** says he finished his slide the first semester, since he has pledged to not miss/sleep in class.

Slide aside, the new year has been a successful one for the senior class. **Lucas Fortune** won "Mr. Clutch" for the bowling team, and several of our compatriots have landed enviable positions with the almost Fortune 500 company CUTCO. They don't just hand those jobs out, people. And then there was that whole **Ryan Potter** going viral thing. Despite his newfound internet stardom, Potter's highlight for January was being unblocked by **Barry Goldsmith** on twitter. #TeamBarry

Lots of other stuff is occupying the minds of the senior class, though. For instance, **Sam Turner** is snapchatting with Taylor Barton on the reg, and **Aaron Jumonville** is reportedly planning his proposal to Carly. **James Sharp** speculates that he'll do it in the McDonald's parking lot with a ring pop. **Mark Lowe** is still heavily

considering a proposition given him by **George Swenson**.

Nick Green is keeping up with auditions for college, **Frank Vest** is glad to have his soup back...but...egg? There's the mention of soup he requested, so **Terrence Harris** is now obliged to read this whole article. Is the soup thing still going? Better question: am I to believe that **Terrence** doesn't always read my article?

Sam Waitt is excited to see **Jake Macey** killin' it on the witness stand at Mock Trial. On that note, a few mock trialers have suggested we take our racks on rack of National Merit Scholars down to the court house to cheer the team on. The question is, would we be held in contempt? Would the team mind being docked a few points for the sake of having **John Mellow** deliver an argument to the tune of 2 Chainz or Chief Keef playing over **Bevan's** speaker?

Jack Emerson requests that, going forward, he be addressed as Stonewall Jack. **Christian Sargent** has noticed a strong upward trend in his and **Robert Papel's** relationship. He hopes this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Those guys are definitely going to be at each other's weddings in fifty years.

In breaking news, there has been a Peter Thurmond sighting. I am accompanying **Landon Bullock** to an FRA girls basketball game to see another one of those girls you always see him with, and our (former) very fearless leader came around the corner at the concessions stand, ran into me, and then shoved me to the ground.

He actually just made eye contact with me when I passed him but it was



OLD SPICE CHAMPION: Ryan recently got Internet famous in a big way.



BUSINESS CASUAL: Just another day at the office for Gonlor McCriffin.

RSTIER99 3 weeks ago
AJ McCarrons girlfriend better not see this.

THANKS FOR THE INPUT: The highlights of the Potter Highlight comments



SOON.....: All Tommy has to do is wait. Wait and watch. definitely a malicious look.

We here at *The Bell Ringer* have received some alarming reports coming out of Anna Gorney's house. But for every request I got to break that story, I got another way...in all caps...directing me not to. So I'll keep my mouth shut. But really, guys?

Will McFadden is looking forward to getting a chance to shoot skeet with his new 12 gauge shotgun that has a pistol grip. Thanks to his new hair treatment, **Mattison Asher** hopes to again boast a youthful mane by this summer.

Speaking of expectations, the seniors of the swim team, led by **Alan "Hey that's not Alan" Liang**, will crusade in Knoxville this weekend for a repeat state title. After two championships already in high school and a runner up finish sandwiched in between, you know we'll be rollin phat in some dope threads up in the UT Aquatics Center. Supa psyche...we got \$20 swim caps.

Masher is concerned that we are moving too fast over the principles of economics and **Andrew Graham** just doesn't cut it when it comes to auditory response time. **Stonewall Jack** pounced

RP SoMuchCamping 1 week ago
you need help.
Reply 17 in reply to jwatson41



ENEMY TERRITORY: Nathan and Furman need wide open spaces.

on a Twix bar lying on the ground before calculus, but in a moment of deja-vu, he became very alert and wearily side-stepped back to his desk. **Jack Wagster** gives a subtle double tap to his leg.

~~He who must not be named~~ He who must not yet be mentioned and whose name should be reconsidered approaches, and the dark mark can be seen increasingly with each passing night.

So.....we've got, like, three months of school left. The magnitude of that hasn't sunken in yet, at least not for me. I'll tell you one thing that is hitting pretty close to home though: we have just a week and a half left in the First Dining Hall. Every time you trip over a chair or crack open a milk to find it half frozen, cherish the moment.

Cherish it and hope we get to choose between pasta and firecracker chicken several times in the final days. It's unclear how much the food will change over there in Hogwarts (admittedly I don't think there will be much difference), but I just don't think it will be the same.

Just a little while to go, gents. Finish this wall we've been building and Roll Red.



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THE RISE OF RYAN

How one man, one highlight video and one unconquerable will vanquished the internet

By **Eric Anderson**
Staff Writer

Many high school football players put together their best highlights on the field to get recognition from college recruiters. However, Ryan Potter made his recruiting video for slightly different purposes. It's been called "The Greatest Recruit Film Ever" partly because no one has ever intentionally made a humorous recruiting video until now. His mixtape currently has more than double the number of views than that of the number-one recruit in the nation, Robert Nkemdiche. While Nkemdiche's video shows one jaw-dropping tackle after another, Ryan's highlight tape falls short of five star talent. Whether it is the occasional lack of balance or the confusing highlight of Grey Reames' celebration, viewers agree that they have never seen anything quite like it.

Famous professional athletes have put together highlight tapes from their high school days. The "John Wall Official Hoopmixtape Vol.1" is among the most viewed recruiting videos for basketball players. Said Ryan, "I've always liked watching random old highlight tapes from professional athletes. I especially like John Wall's high school tape." In fact, Ryan liked it so much that he decided to imitate John Wall's video title with "The Official Ryan Potter Highlight Mixtape." In numerous videos like John Wall's, high school recruits add some pump-up music to give the full experience of watching their highlight tapes. Of course, Ryan added the



The Official Ryan Potter Highlight Mixtape



song "Paper Planes" to add to the ambiance of the experience.

During this year's season, Ryan had no intention of making a highlight film. He did, however, make several jokes on Twitter and Facebook about the possibility of putting together a video. It was not until after the MBA football season had come to an end that Ryan realized how many "truly good plays" he made throughout his senior year. Ryan said, "I had about fifteen to

twenty plays in a collection that I liked and off I went into further creation." On several plays, Ryan runs down field on kickoffs and trips over his own teammates. In others, Ryan highlights himself really doing nothing on the play besides celebrating or getting blocked by another player. Tom Ley, a writer for deadspin.com, says, "The highlight reel features Ryan kicking extra points and maybe kind of making a tackle at least one time." While most of his highlight

tape shows various plays that he made, on some occasions there is a little pushing and shoving after the whistle. In MBA's game against Father Ryan, Ryan and another player push each other after the play is over. Reflecting on that moment, Ryan explained, "That Father Ryan kid had it coming his way, and just so people know, he backed off of me. I was ready for some more." In addition to the pushing and shoving after the play, Ryan also points out celebrations, which he believes are key elements to the game. After Ryan makes a tackle on defense, he highlights Grey Reames in the video as Reames starts celebrating his teammate's great play. Ryan said, "I felt it was only fair to have him featured a bit in the video showing off his own gifted athleticism. I mean, when Grey hits it big next year like I did, at least I can always go back and be like, 'WOW! I knew that kid before he went big.'"

Ryan's video has captured national attention. Websites such as deadspin and cbssports have written articles about "The Greatest Recruit Film Ever." There has even been rumor that Ryan could get the opportunity to go on Comedy Central's "Tosh.0." Commenting on the possibility of appearing on Tosh's show, Ryan stated, "I'm ready when Daniel Tosh is. Being on his show would be an incredible opportunity and an episode to remember." With Ryan's final thoughts on the entire experience of the video, he said, "I want to give one final thank-you to Cade Hooper for holding all my extra-point kicks. 7 for 7 in 2012, #perfection."

Unexpected but major Wang connection in new exchange

By **Tarun Mallipeddi**
Opinions Editor

This year, MBA forged a new relationship with a school abroad by the name of Beijing High School Four, or BHSF. Mr. Gioia, along with Chinese teacher Mrs. Zhang, traveled to China last summer in order to visit multiple schools in Beijing as well China in general. BHSF stood out among the many schools they visited, and Mr. Gioia made the decision to return to China this past Winter Break in order to visit BHSF specifically.

It was during this second visit that Mr. Gioia got to know the school better, and the relationship between MBA and BHSF was made fully official when BHSF's Director of International Exchanges visited MBA for two days on his way to President Obama's second inauguration.

One of Mr. Gioia's reasons in his decision to pick BHSF as an exchange partner can be explained most by the fact that BHSF was created as an academically focused public school over 100 years ago and is a school of rich academic tradition, much like MBA. BHSF was created as a part of the education reforms of the Qing Dynasty in 1906 and has remained a distinguished academic institution since its inception.

Mr. Gioia outlined more reasons for picking this certain school by saying, "It's critical that MBA have some ties with China because it is going to explode in terms of international education, and they have a desire to have links with schools around the world. I knew Beijing High School Four was a really good school in Beijing, so it was an obvious choice."

A couple of days after Mr. Gioia announced the newly forged relationship, Kevin Wang, a current senior, came forward saying his own family had a strong history with this school.

Kevin's grandfather went to school there and graduated in 1957 while it was still an all-boys school. He later came back to serve as a teacher of political sciences and then academic dean for about 30 years in total. While his grandfather was academic dean, Kevin's father, Major Wang, finished high school there and graduated. Kevin himself visited the school for one day when he was in 3rd grade on a vacation.

Kevin's father, who attended the school from 1977-1981 after the coed period had already started, had several comments about the school and fondly remembers his time there.

At Mr. Wang's time of attendance, there were five grades, three in the lower school and two in the upper school, each

consisting of about 400 students. The students gained admittance through a complex process of testing and selection. Due to this tough selection process, BHSF was the top public magnet school in China, although there was no private education in China at the time.

Since the school was state-run, tuition was free, and Mr. Wang only needed to pay the equivalent of \$5 for the boarding fee each semester. This was probably the biggest difference between MBA and BHSF since the academic aspects of both schools are quite similar.

Additionally, BHSF is renowned for its athletics program. Sports were predominant in BHSF's curriculum. Each day started with an early morning self-study session at 7:15 AM and ended with PE at about 4:30 PM, Monday through Saturday. BHSF was the only school with an international standard track and field facility in Beijing, showing its athletic emphasis that complemented an already strong academic program.

When asked about how the school affected his life, Mr. Wang replied, "In many ways it has taught me to aim high in life yet always remain a humble learner and to believe in hard work instead of taking short cuts."

MBA caught Mr. Wang's attention

as a strong option for Kevin because of the "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete" motto which resembles the traditions of BHSF. They both have highly educated teachers and a close-knit, supportive community. Both set high expectations for the students to succeed in their chosen fields, and because of their high standards for achievements, both schools encourage a strong sense of pride and belonging.

The similarity that Kevin noticed was the tradition both MBA and BHSF were steeped in. BHSF was an all-boys school until 1966 during the Cultural Revolution, during which it became co-ed.

Kevin first found out about his family's connection to the school during his visit to it in 3rd grade, but he never knew his grandfather attended the school until about two weeks ago.

Although he himself has had only one personal experience with the school, Kevin recognizes the great opportunity that MBA students have been given by this new chance for foreign exchange. He expressed his hope "that many students and possibly faculty will take advantage of this new connection and opportunity to explore a school that is a lot like MBA, albeit set in a different culture, but the same school environment."

Two MBA students feel pain of brain injuries

By Kang Huh
Staff Writer

When students sign up for a sport, they always have to consider a few things. They may ask how the sport will effect their schedule or how they will reach the starting lineup. What most do not always consider when putting the final touches on the athletic forms is the possibility of injuries that might occur as a result of playing. Aside from the run-of-the-mill limb fractures, what scares potential players and parents alike the most is the possibility of a career-ending concussion.

The majority MBA athletes have been fortunate enough to be able to avoid such injuries. However, senior Will Campbell and junior John Wheeler have suffered these misfortunes.

Will Campbell recounted suffering from two concussions; the first during a heated baseball game during his sophomore year, the second during his junior year while playing football. Like many who have been afflicted by concussions, Campbell passed out after each of the incidents. Immediately upon waking up, he felt violent throbbing in his head and suffered a bloody nose. His eyesight was shaky, and he felt an inability to walk in a straight line, which resulted in his ejection in order to receive further treatment. He also noted to his coaches slight memory issues upon waking up.

Although Campbell has physically healed from these incidents, he was advised not to play any more full-contact sports in order to prevent further and more serious injuries. Yet Campbell's personal experience did not only alter his athletic career, it also resulted in a dramatic change to his mental state. Campbell noted that he "felt like I was going and thinking slower than everyone else. I couldn't process information as quickly as I used to. My cognitive skills didn't really return for about four months."

Campbell stated that he was also discouraged by his inability to pass the ImPACT Neurological Examination for quite some time after his injury, even experiencing difficulty engaging in usually simple physical activities such as catching balls while walking. In looking back at the incident, Campbell stated that he "used to think that concussions were more of an excuse than an actual injury, but now I realize how dangerous they really are."

John Wheeler, unlike Campbell, suffered a single career-ending concussion during football practice. Like Campbell, Wheeler also noted difficulty remembering the events leading up to and following the concussion itself. Although he was fortunate enough not to have experienced a blackout, he noted that colors seemed paler than usual and that his hearing was impaired by a strange buzzing noise. Wheeler did not have much trouble walking to the sidelines by himself, but the concussion was serious enough that he can no longer play football due to the high risk of experiencing another serious concussion.

However, Wheeler still actively participates in the Big Red baseball team. Despite his ability to shift athletic gears, Wheeler stated that not being able to participate in football was devastating at the time because he felt alienated by not being on the team. It was understandably difficult to have something he worked so hard at be taken away in an instant. Although he did not need hospitalization, Wheeler experienced a sharp decline in his cognitive skills after the concussion, especially because of the cranial pain that inhibited his ability to read more than a few words on the page before the words began to seemingly float around.

Concussions can truly be life changing. Simple tackles can cause such lasting injuries that they end a career. Concussions have always been a threat, but only in the past few years has the public awareness for the issue become substantial. As Will Campbell and John Wheeler learned firsthand, concussions are now injuries that all potential athletes must acknowledge before joining a team.

Hillenmeyer takes lead on concussion reform in NFL

By Davis Lovvorn
Staff Writer

During week one of the 2010-2011 NFL season, a linebacker for the Chicago Bears went down with a concussion in the first half. The injury was so severe that he was placed on injured reserve for the rest of the season. The star linebacker was released by the Bears at the end of the season. He has not played football since.

That player was Hunter Hillenmeyer, MBA class of 1999.

"As much as I wanted to play, I didn't fight it," he said, understanding the safety implications of playing through such a dangerous injury.

While this story is particularly relevant to the MBA community, the concussion has lately become all too common around the NFL. Players are frequently suffering

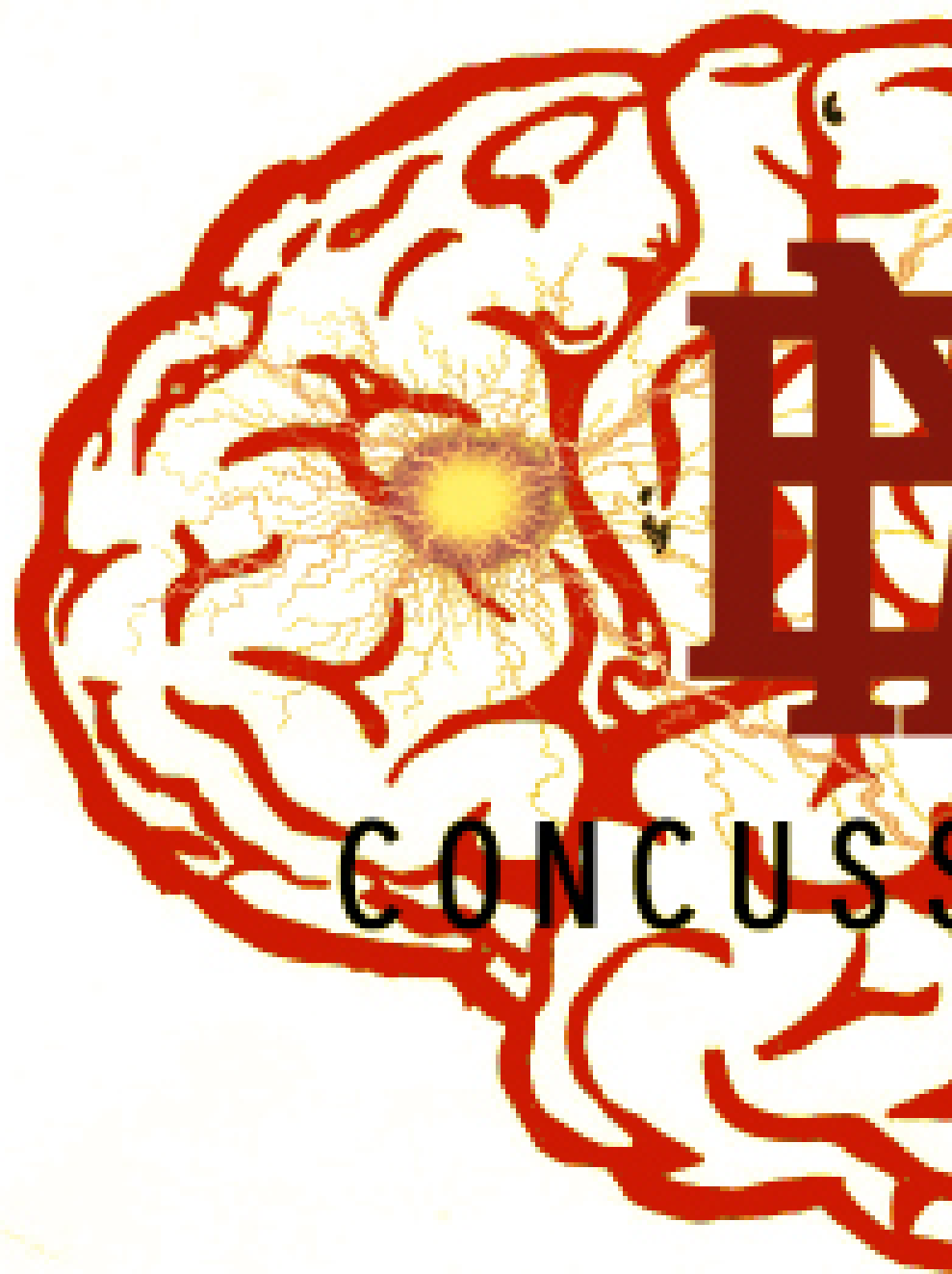
from these injuries, and the effects are being noticed by the public. Most notably, the suicide of superstar Junior Seau was speculated to be linked to the brain damage he suffered playing football.

"Players are scared," said Hillenmeyer in an interview with ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption*. He added that this injury is football's "dark side."

Hillenmeyer has decided to take action on this very serious matter. He has become a player representative in the Concussion Committee on the NFL Players' Association and has done extensive research on the topic of concussions. He will even donate his brain to science upon his death for research on the effects of this injury.

The MBA alum has some ideas on how to fight this injury. First, he expressed concern over the team doctors. "Doctors should see how the injury happened," he said. Therefore, the seriousness of the injury could be

WATCH YOUR



accurately diagnosed. Also, he says that players' sitting out a game is a "step in the right direction."

Hillenmeyer also stated that he "wouldn't push his kids to play" football and only half-jokingly said that he would rather they play golf.

Finally, Hillenmeyer expressed his concern for the state of the game as a whole. "Football will always be a violent game," he said. "I would hate for football to become less popular."

It seems that the old adage that once hung in the MBA locker room, "It's better to miss one game than the whole season," is now more relevant than ever.

OUR HEAD



Parents must debate about football participation

>> CONCUSSION, 1

inside every football parent's head: let their son play and risk brain injury from concussions, or decide that the rewards of football outweigh the risks.

There are strong arguments against participation. Junior Seau, a former NFL linebacker, committed suicide last May, purposely not shooting himself in the head so his brain could be studied. It was discovered that Seau had Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. CTE is a brain disease known to result from numerous hard hits to the head and concussions. Its main symptoms are dementia and depression, symptoms that have led to suicide for several ex-players, including Seau.

Counting "Grade 1" concussions, the least severe type when a player is only disoriented after a hit, a former teammate estimated that Seau suffered at least 1,500 concussions. Although high school players hit considerably softer and play considerably fewer games than Seau did in his twenty NFL seasons, 1,500 is still a scary number.

Perhaps even more frightening is the story of Nathan Stiles. At age seventeen, this high school football cornerback dropped dead on a Saturday morning after taking a huge hit the Friday night before. The fear of anything remotely close to that happening could be enough for a concerned parent to pull their son out of football for good. And while there are very few cases like those of Stiles and Seau, tragic cases could become more frequent as the game continues to become faster and harder hitting. Experts can only predict how concussions suffered now will impact future brain health, but at least our generation has the benefit of that research to help us make a decision.

On the other side of this debate is the argument in favor of parents keeping their sons in football. Football is a great sport, and people may be overreacting to the dangers of concussions. Concussion rates in NCAA football are not substantially higher than those of other sports. In 2011, the combined concussion rates of soccer, field hockey and volleyball were 1.9 out of 1000 game-related exposures. For football, the rate is 2.5 out of 1000 game-related exposures.

There is no reason to drop football for a sport like hockey or lacrosse either. Their concussion rates are even closer to football's rates. At what level of concussion rates does a parent draw the line? Not everyone is going to play golf, so some contingent will always seek out contact sports.

In addition, new technology is constantly being developed in helmets and other gear to minimize the risk of concussions. Many important figures in football, such as NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, have decided to take a firmer stance on concussions and encourage more research with the hope of reining in concussions in the future. Football can become an essential part of a student-athlete's life, so it should not be eradicated without good reason—especially if other sports offer only a little less risk.

For football players here on the Hill, things are looking up. According to athletic trainer Brandon Thornsberry, there were zero concussions during the 2012 football season. As coaches and players become more conscientious about proper tackling methods, less head shots are being delivered and taken. MBA issues the ImPACT test to every player with a head injury, which is considered the best indication of concussion symptoms. For a player to return to the field after a concussion, his scores must come close to matching those of his original test taken without a concussion.

In the end, each family needs to make its own decision. It would be a shame for a terrific high school football experience not to exist due to fear of concussion, but it would be an even bigger shame if proper measures were not taken and concussions continue to potentially ruin a player's mental health for life.

Team trainers better equipped to handle concussions

By Matt Miccioli
Staff Writer

While the results of concussions have earned significant coverage in recent months, the actions trainers and doctors take to diagnose and treat them have received less attention.

MBA's head trainer Brandon Thornsberry stated, "Getting to know all athletes and their personalities is the first step. Staying diligent to big hits in practice and keeping an eye out for any big hits in practice is next. That way, if there is a change in the player's attitude or personality, warning lights begin to go off."

Some of the other giveaways are difficulties in concentrating, persistent headaches and changes in sleep patterns. Sluggishness and repetitive mistakes in practice are also common indicators of a potential concussion.

"After inquiring about potential dehydration or exhaustion, if we suspect a concussion we'll monitor the player for the next twenty-four hours and reevaluate the next day," said Thornsberry.

Provided by Dr. Hubbard over the last five to six years, ImPACT Clinical Testing reports compare baseline results taken in the beginning of the season to results taken after a potential concussion. Visual and verbal memory, motor control and reaction time are all taken into account in the ImPACT test, which assigns a performance evaluation by comparing the athlete's results with other athletes of his same sport and age.

If diagnosed with a concussion, the recovery process is highly individualized, having evolved greatly over the last ten years. "Every person heals at a different rate," said Thornsberry, "There's no surefire method for assigning a definite amount of time."

In the first days of recovery, the player's heart rate is kept low, while an extra emphasis is put on maintaining fluid levels, good nutrition and blood flow to the brain. Bike regimens and stress testing are used to build up strength and assess the recovery rate. In some cases, prolonged and chronic symptoms may necessitate continued therapy.

To aid in the diagnosis and recovery process, MBA issues a Parental Instruction Form, which outlines some of the warning signs and establishes the "dos and don'ts" of head injuries.

An increasing awareness of concussions has increased the pressure put on doctors and physicians to respond appropriately to the injury. A close monitoring of the situation has become a standard for the recovery process of any athlete suffering from a concussion.



Basketball reassesses at mid-season

By George Swenson
Executive Editor

The Varsity Basketball Team appears to have turned the season around after a rocky start. The team lost its first six division games to local rivals that include Ensworth, Brentwood Academy and Father Ryan. As for the reason for this shaky start, Senior Andrew Einstman comments on the team's difficult transition from last season.

"The beginning of the season was tough considering the team lost many of its cornerstones, and the team lacked a true identity. We knew that it could take a few games to get to know this team, but

at no point did anyone question the team's ability."

Since the early losses, however, the team has turned its season around after piling up wins against Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan and JPII. Andrew reflects that the turning point was Kamani Hodges' buzzer-beater against Brentwood Academy.

After being down late in the 4th quarter, Kamani scored eight points in the final two minutes to give MBA its first division win of the season. "This shot proved to the team that we can win, and instead of hanging our heads we stayed on course and kept focusing," he said.

The remaining games look

promising as the momentum continues to mount. The team has five more games until the first round of the playoffs starts in mid-February. In preparation for the playoffs, Senior Tom Kaiser says that "we have been working on rebounding and taking care of the ball in practice because those were our two main issues at the beginning of the season."

Because of the team's quality roster and senior leadership, both Andrew and Tom know the team can certainly reach its full potential and because of the team's recent resurgence can make a legitimate run at the state title in March.

Hockey unscathed in league play

By Anthony Swenson
Asst. Sports Editor

Big Red Hockey has had a very successful season, leading the GNASH Blue Division and being undefeated in division play. With thirteen wins to date, double the number of the past two seasons combined, Coach Deutsch is thrilled with the way the team has performed, believes that the team has met the expectations from the beginning of the season.

The group's solid defense, led by Michael Piana, Stephen Ray, Jack Malone and Turner Smith is the core for the team's success. The goaltenders Jack Coyle and back-up Cal Fisher stand behind the defense, and the team has scored a league-leading seventy-three goals primarily because of the skating speed and sharp passing and shooting from forwards: Chase Mathews, Conner Griffin, Bennett Maxwell, Ben Yahnian, Kip Worthington, Sam Pinsly, Aidan McSharry and Nick Boney.

In addition to the team's success on the ice, participation in hockey is up 50% compared to last year's roster. The team was able to form a JV squad since the squad is so large, which Coach Deutsch describes as "an ideal, safe environment for the development of players new to the game." With limited varsity roster space, Coach Deutsch calls the program's new setup "a dream come true for a coach... possibly having 40 guys in the program all working hard each practice to earn a spot on the varsity roster!" The team should have enough returning players to continue the JV program next season.

The squad finishes the regular season on February 13 and then begins post-season play. With the post-season rapidly approaching, the main goal for MBA Hockey is to compete for the Hine's Cup in March, and Coach Deutsch believes the team has the skills to do so.

Alums battle for bowl glory; results mixed

By Jody Gorham
Staff Writer

Kevin Carr ('10) graduate, of MBA and son of Commander Carr, found himself on the Notre Dame football team after being discovered in an intramural football game. Since then, the 6'7" 325 pound defensive end has been on the Notre Dame roster listed as number 67. His first game in uniform was against Navy overseas in Ireland as a junior. Although not receiving much playing time, Kevin still gets the privilege of running through the tunnel onto the field in front of the thousands of Irish fans while on national television. Along with this experience, Kevin took part in an incredible Notre Dame season which culminated in reaching the National Championship. Although the Fighting Irish were routed by the Tide, Kevin spoke highly of the experience but

left the door open for improvement saying, "The National Championship experience was still great despite the loss, but we now understand how much harder we have to work this off season to get back to the BCS and win." Playing or not, Kevin had the honor of being a part of a rare experience which he believes may happen again during his tenure at Notre Dame.

Wesley Johnson, MBA graduate of '09 and offensive lineman for Vanderbilt University, played in the Music City Bowl this year against NC State. The redshirt junior has started every game since his first eligible year as a redshirt freshman. The 6'5" 285-pound tackle has been honored with the 2010 SEC All-Freshman team, 2011 Anchor Award as Vanderbilt's offensive lineman of the year, 2012 SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week against Kentucky, 2012 All-SEC Honorable Mention and was named to the 2012 All

SEC Bowl Team by ESPN. Along with all these athletic accolades, Johnson is a two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient. Johnson is going back to Vandy for his senior year and looks to build upon what is already a very impressive career.

Fitz Lassing, '10 graduate, also has contributed to the Vanderbilt football team for the past three years. As a true freshman listed as 6'3" 240 pounds, Lassing played as a tight end in ten of Vanderbilt's twelve games. In 2011 he was used as a tight end and fullback where he played in all thirteen games and recorded a catch in each of Vanderbilt's first five games. He was also named to the 2011 SEC Academic Honor Roll. This year, Lassing served as the main fullback, helping Zac Stacy to break the school record for rushing yards in a career. Lassing has been a consistent role player throughout the past three years and looks to continue an already solid SEC career.



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JG3: the lone three-sport Senior

By Andrew Karpos
Sports Editor

The world of MBA athletics today is filled with boys who specialize in a single sport, honing their craft in preparation for one season during the year. There are, however, still a number of athletes who are noted members of multiple teams. Within this group, there are a select few who can be classified as three-sport athletes.

One such athlete is Senior John Garrett, who has competed for the Football, Wrestling and Lacrosse teams during all four years of his high school career. Although John may not be the prototypical stud athlete at MBA, he truly embodies the fundamental attributes that a teammate ought to possess.

After being inspired by his older brother Kyle's ability to play and "lead through all three sports," John decided as a freshman that he would follow a similar path.

Being a three-sport athlete presents a unique set of challenges that many others at MBA do not have to face. John explains that "the biggest factor is the time commitment." Whether it is two-a-days in the summer, wrestling practice over winter break, or a lacrosse tournament over Spring Break, John sacrifices much of his time off for the teams he competes for.

Although John may not be the star of or a starter for all the teams he is on, he remains extremely motivated. John explains that "the fact that I'm not really the star gives me even more motivation to try put in effort and work hard to becoming that guy. You can't just be a part of something and be lazy and not work hard, because that's not fair to the team." In a sport like wrestling, for example, John recognizes that it is his job to "get his partner ready" and that "it's really all about the team."

Many of the contributions John



RUN AND SHOOT: John Garrett's sporting endeavors are varied but the constants are a winning personality and dedication.

makes to the teams he's on are intangible. In terms of leadership, John says that although he may not be the loudest leader, he still takes his role seriously. During this year's football season, he used his role on special teams to "try and get everyone pumped up and focused on what we needed to do." Wherever he competes, John strives to either "go out and perform" or "get other people going around him" if he is not playing.

The best way to exemplify what kind of teammate John Garrett is comes through the words of his coaches. Head lacrosse coach John Harvey commented, "John Garrett is such a valuable asset to this

school's athletic programs. His commitment to play three sports is what high school athletics is all about to me. He would run through a wall if you asked him to, and nobody will ever question his effort. I am looking forward to his leadership during his senior season." Similarly, football coach Marty Euverard remarked, "John is an exceptional leader. He was always willing to lead by example and work extremely hard to help our football team win."

When asked about the biggest rewards of being a three-sport athlete, John says, "I think the fact that I have put in so much time, whether I do play or don't. Just

being on so many teams is such a reward. It's fun to be a part of all three atmospheres and have multiple seasons to look forward to." As for the best aspects of being on a team at MBA, John cites the "amazing camaraderie and incredible atmospheres" that one gets to be a part of. He also "love[s] the coaches and all the support that they provide."

Some of the highlights of John's sporting career include the Trinity football game this year and a moment from lacrosse last year. As John retells it: "We were playing a team from South Carolina. Coach Harvey told us that the starters weren't performing so he was putting the backups in. They put me out there and I was scared to death. I ended up getting a pass and driving down. After spinning around, I shot and scored. That kind of started a streak and we were able to come back and win."

Athletes such as John Garrett often don't receive the true praise that they deserve. His humble and persistent work ethic combined with a selfless attitude is evident in all three of the sports he participates in, as shown by Coach Euverard calling him "one of the most unselfish young men I have ever coached." His contributions may not always show up on the stat sheet, but his commitment helps all those around him get better and provides an infectious sense of determination. Although studs and star athletes are necessary to win championships, just as important are the multisport athletes like John who provide the teamwork and effort that has bred success on MBA's athletic teams for over one hundred years.

Whether he is competing in football, wrestling or lacrosse, John Garrett truly symbolizes the idea that the needs of the team come before the needs of the individual. For this reason, *The Bell Ringer* want to congratulate him and let him know that his many years of effort will never go unnoticed.

The Sports Column: Futsal and Balance

By Curtis Turner
Soccer correspondent

The Brazilians are good at this kind of thing. Moving around with only a loose set of constraints to guide them. That's what



made Pele the greatest, Leandro Barbosa really good and Zumba sneakily addictive. Futsal is, after all, soccer's younger cousin which means the Brazilians are bound to be good at it. Currently, the

MBA soccer team is competing in a five-a-side league at some school on the banks of the Harpeth. The last few weeks have been a masterclass of futsal dominance: dynamic passing, clinical finishing and latent physicality which avoids fouls but takes on opponents. Every week, a small squad from MBA's other football team takes on the representatives from their rivals from around the city. The results have been more than impressive.

Against the core members of the main soccer competition in the region, the gap in technical skill has been both demonstrated

and mildly embarrassing. The Big Red (operating under the pseudonym "the Raptors") have creativity and verve where opponents only display panic and robotic execution. One result stands out above the others, against the sworn rival host school (which will here remain unnamed), the Raptors unfolding a twenty goal thrashing (high-scoring, even in the run-and-gun futsal) that was never in doubt. By itself, it was a marvel of interplay and a wondrous youth movement, with the majority of the players being underclassmen going up against a varsity squad. Outside the vacuum of the singular competition, it also says something about the Big Red Side and the athletic program in general.

Coach Cheevers and Coach Klausner have built a sound if obscure machine. The thread that binds the lowly microbe teams (who have rarely relinquished the HVAC championship this millennium) to a JV team that flirts with a varsity level of play and a Varsity side that flirts more often with brilliance is a relatively simple and flexible 4-4-2 and superior coaching. The nature of top-tier high school soccer makes it more like a national team than a

club side – seemingly everyone spends more time in the off-season with a travel team than in season with their school.

The key, at least for the Big Red over the years, has been a certain flexibility. The 4-4-2 is the universal tongue and it also allows for every player to express his skill set. Positioning has been fluid over the years; Ford Emerson's charging runs made for a more aggressive attacking midfield, and Chris Meluch was more of a deep-set playmaker, dictating pace from the back – but all of that transition has been seamless in so simple a system. At the same time that the coaching staff allows for expression, their coaching cultivates it on the practice pitch. Players are drilled to see lanes that others might think too small and make the pass that seems just the other side of adventurous. Only under such a system can the gap in creativity be so wide as our futsal success would indicate.

For the athletics as a whole on the Hill, we find in this futsal run of form a latent balance. In terms of Southern tradition, soccer may not even be the most important sport of the spring season, and yet two dozen young men in the student body can

coexist with the droves that play the Other Football without our community batting an eyelash. Every other athletic program in our region has at least some weakness, but can you find it in ours? Watching Sam Smith juke past a gangly player in an orange shirt, I have a hard time identifying one.

The twenty-goal drubbing, which came against a school with a quality "real football" team – indicates that we as a school have our priorities straight on a few things. First of all, it tells us the MBA soccer machine knows how to build not just a soccer player, but the right kind of soccer player, and not just a soccer team, but the right kind of soccer team. At times, the soccer program seems to operate out of the arts department instead of athletics. The upcoming iteration of the Big Red Side will be not just be classy, but may play with a cohesive creativity that makes for attractive and dynamic play. Second, the balance of the Renaissance-man ideal that constitutes the core of our educational model extends to the athletics department.

The real question may be, how much is that worth? For now the answer is pretty simple: twenty-some-odd goals and a good night of futsal.

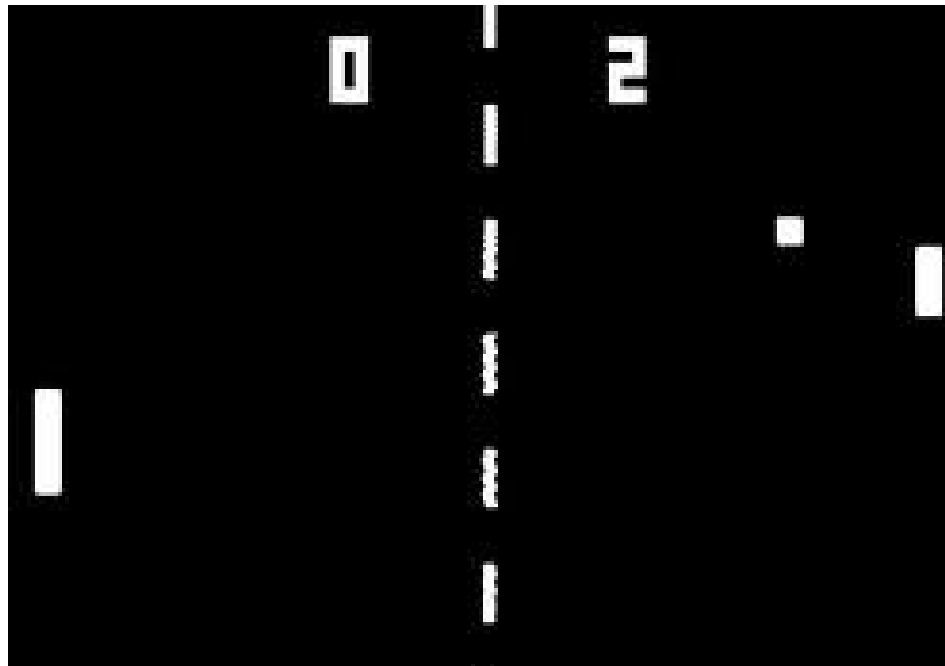
The battle over battles | *The conflation of video games and violence*

By **Benton Dodd**
Staff Writer

Ever since video games arrived in people's homes back in the 1980's, they have been consistently targeted as the reason behind violent crimes, in which they may or may not have been involved.

The NRA and other anti-video game groups have denounced video games as being the only reason that people would commit heinous crimes such as the shootings at Columbine or Sandy Hook and they have even fabricated stories about the alleged "violent-videogame-playing" past of the shooters. In the case of Adam Lanza, the shooter at Sandy Hook, he was known to have played *World of Warcraft*, a game which doesn't even contain guns, and is T-rated, deeming it appropriate to be played by those above the age of 13. Immediately upon learning that Lanza played *World of Warcraft*, anti-gun lobbyists and political commentators alike began to use the ever present get-out-of-jail-free card of blaming video games to direct media outrage away from their own groups. To the general public, what they are claiming makes sense. They say that playing a game with violence would inherently invoke violent actions. Evidence would suggest that just the opposite is true.

If the theories of anti-game lobbyists were true, and video games were the primary reason behind violent crimes, one might logically conclude that the violent crime rate and the sales numbers for violent video games would correspond. Again, this claim is false. In 1990, the sales numbers for video games in the U.S. numbered around \$5 billion in revenue, most from children's games like *Super Mario Brothers*, with a few Rated-M exceptions, like *Mortal Kombat*. Today, the numbers of video games sold measures around \$16 billion. The majority of this sum is still rated below M, with M-rated games having grown to 25%. As of 2011, 25 million copies of the original *Call of Duty Black Ops* have been sold worldwide, amounting to over \$1.2 billion in revenue for that one game alone. The violent crime rate, in the United States, according to *The United States Census Bureau*, in 1990, was 729 crimes/100,000 people. Today the same statistic is 386/100,000 people. Although there are several other factors could have contributed to this drop in crime, the notion that videogame-based violence is the reason for violent crime is not supported by these facts. If video games were solely responsible for violent crimes, this number should have increased, not decreased dramatically as



QUESTION OF EVOLUTION: *Some among the media have argued that video games have gone too far.*

it has. In addition, these "violent video games" sold in U.S. markets are also sold in international markets, such as South Korea, Japan, and other Asian countries, Germany and other European countries, and around the world. There has been no dramatic increase in violent crime in these nations either, again disproving the notion that there is any link between crime and video games. These countries' crime rates have dropped significantly, not from banning video games

or movies, (because remember, these organizations are attacking Hollywood too) but as a result of controversial gun bans. They did what some politicians in the U.S. attempt to do, but they have tried and failed to institute effective bans on these "violent video games" due to the lack of scientific evidence to support their claims against the video game industry.

Most of the leaders of anti-game groups have a thorough misunderstanding of what a truly violent video game even is, counting games such

as *World of Warcraft* among the worst of the worst. I struggle to understand how a killer would be able to plot, or be inspired to commit a mass killing, while playing a T-rated game with no guns. The politicians probably feel so negatively about video games because they don't understand them, believing them to be a horrible pastime and only played in niche markets. In fact, according to a study conducted by the NPD Group in New York, an estimated 72% of Americans play video games. Most politicians that would lobby against video games are in a demographic of people that have likely never been exposed to, let alone played, these games. Yet they act like their opinions are authoritative. They speak as if

they have the overwhelming support of the majority, when really they have the support of an overly vocal minority, which doesn't have any facts to support its claims. They look at the nature of the games and assume that any mature content, such as violence, listed on the box by the ESRB, somehow molds their children's minds, as if by osmosis, when in actuality these claims are merely paranoia. They blame games because they don't understand what they are and would rather pass the blame to another group than to deal with the repercussions of their actions.

Numerous studies have further proven that there is no link. As Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia remarked on the majority opinion in *Brown v. EMA/ESA* (organizations that represent video game companies), "Psychological studies purporting to show a connection between exposure to violent video games and harmful effects on children do not prove that such exposure causes minors to act aggressively." In addition to governmental findings, the results of private studies have garnered similar results. In 2011, a study was conducted by Christopher J. Ferguson, along with many other prominent professors and doctors, entitled "Violent video games and aggression: Causal relationship or byproduct of family violence and intrinsic violence motivation?" The group conducted a study using two groups of participants that were either exposed or blocked from playing violent games. In the conclusion it was noted that, "Findings from the two studies were mutually supportive. These results suggest that playing violent video games does not constitute a significant

risk for future violent criminal acts. Because there was no evidence in either study to support a direct link between video game exposure and aggressive or violent behavior, these results call into question the GAM as a useful predictive model of aggression." Statistics show that there is no causal link between real-life violence and playing video games.

Wayne LaPierre, Vice President of the NRA, remarked at a December 21st 2012 press conference, "Guns don't kill people. Video games, the media, and Obama's budget kill people. There exists in this country, sadly, a callous, corrupt, and corrupting shadow industry that sells and stows violence against its own people, through vicious, violent video games." Organizations like the NRA are willing to conveniently pass the blame on to anyone but themselves in order to hide a fundamental failure on their own part to keep Americans safe, and video games are a popular scapegoat right now. The real cause of violent crime in America is the background of the assailants, the availability of guns, and the egregious lack of a standardized background check system to stop potentially dangerous people from buying guns in the first place. To shift the blame away from themselves, the gun lobby would rather preach to the oblivious masses about how video games are "destroying our children's minds" and causing the violence, and then continue on with their negligent practices. Should any person with an unknown mental issue and a clean criminal record want to go on a killing spree, go to a gun show, or store, they could acquire a firearm with relative ease, and often without a background check.

If someone reenacts what they play in a video game in real life, they likely have had a serious mental problem far before they started to play the game. Disturbed people will do disturbed things, and they don't need video to help them on the path to committing atrocities. Now to be clear, I am a firm proponent of Second Amendment rights, and I usually side with the NRA, but I detest the fact that anti-game groups, particularly the NRA, are more interested in pointing fingers than solving the issue at hand. They need to

spend less time passing the blame for their own missteps, and more time on thinking of solutions to these gun-rights problems so these discussions wouldn't even be necessary. This is a gun and mental health issue, not a games issue. Blaming video games for the recent tragedies might grant a short-term reprieve from media scrutiny for these pro-gun groups, but it does absolutely nothing to solve the larger problem.





AND THEY PAY YOU FOR IT: Jamie Foxx and Christopher Waltz played wonderfully off each other, but the film's racial overtones dominate reactions.

DJANGOISM! On Tarantino and racial dialogue

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

I'm quick to admit that Quentin Tarantino is my favorite. I love the man. He is a genius of storytelling and screenplay, especially so when the two are combined. His films horrify to the same extent as they dazzle and are as outrageous as they are identifiable. So the six-month wait after first hearing about *Django Unchained* was certainly a slow one.

All of Tarantino's flicks revolve around a number of similar themes. In some, certain themes manifest themselves moreso than in others — *Reservoir Dogs* and its violence, *Pulp Fiction* and its humor, *Kill Bill* and its quirkiness and delicate recreation of the Kung Fu and Spaghetti Western genres. *Django* is no different, yet it introduces an element I've not yet seen from Tarantino — the movie is thought-provoking.

To see the morally provocative side of this movie, one must see past the spouting blood and witty dialogue and

discover the root of the scarring violence and southern-belle glamor. *Django Unchained* perfectly creates the setting of the Antebellum American South down to every last three-piece suit and doily. The grimace-inducing scenes, like the slave attacked by a pack of dogs or the sweaty "mandingo" death match, provide brutal imagery to accompany what we all have learned in school about the treatment of blacks in the nineteenth century. Furthermore it depicts the cruelty with which the white plantation owners would so casually treat these slaves.

With all his movies, Tarantino seeks to push the boundaries of filmmaking history. Here he asks, what do we know about our own past? Do we really understand how far we have pushed the limits of human ethics? When Tarantino first had the idea for the movie in 2007, he told interviewer John Hiscock that no one had dealt with the topic of slavery because "America...is ashamed of it," and that other countries have not done so because "they don't feel they have the right to."

The counterpoint at every turn has been a vocal Spike Lee who has been open about boycotting the film. On his objections he said "American Slavery was not a Sergio Leone Spaghetti Western. It was a Holocaust. My ancestors are slaves. Stolen from Africa. I will honor them." Despite Lee's objections, the film has been widely lauded as a source of an open dialogue on race, slavery and the skeletons in America's collective closet that is rare in our pop-cultural age of political correctness.

By showing us blood and guts, bigotry and depravity in glorious high definition, Tarantino exposes our own tendency to mentally dismiss a period of history that we can only imagine. On the other hand, we have both primary-source historical video and countless filmmakers' and video game designers' renditions of World War II. So the era *Inglorious Basterds* was set in only served as a setting for telling a story. Our lack of any frame of reference to actual life in the *Django* era makes Tarantino's hyperrealistic Antebellum South all the more bone-

chillingly authentic. Ironically enough, Tarantino and Lee object to the same things about our handling of history. The world that the one creates is — though entertaining — just as ugly as the "Holocaust" the other objects to.

I applaud you, Mr. Tarantino, for making a film that not only tells a fascinating story but starts a critical conversation as well. In an age where pop culture rules all, our perceptions of each other as human beings are influenced by what we see and hear. He certainly touches on complicated issues (especially in a supposedly postracial America), but that does not mean he invented them. If one piece of pop culture like *Django Unchained* can positively affect how people understand and treat each other, then the world might begin to become a more unified place.

5 Waffles out of 5



J Dilla posthumous release headlines the year ahead in music

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

Now that 2012 is over, it's time to look forward to the new music that 2013 promises to bring. 2012 was such a quality year in music that it set the bar high for 2013 releases. With Frank Ocean arriving on the scene and Jay-Z asserting his dominance, 2012 was highlighted by some amazing albums. But with some huge comebacks on the horizon, the albums of 2013 might have a chance to live up to the energy created in 2012. So here's what you should look for in the upcoming year:

Kid Cudi — *Indicud*

Cudi is finally back from his trip into rock music as WZRD with his new album *Indicud*, the follow up to *Man on the Moon II*. The album is expected to feature Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West and Pusha T,

making it easily the only can't-miss album of the year. With the singles "Just What I Am" and "King Wizard," *Indicud* promises to return to vintage Cudi when it releases in March.

Atoms for Peace — *Amok*

What is possibly the most intriguing release of the year, Atoms for Peace, consisting of Radiohead's Thom Yorke and The Red Hot Chili Peppers' Flea, drops its album on February 25. This album is basically the dream team of nineties rock. Think Michael Jordan and Larry Bird playing together. And if their website is any indication, the album is guaranteed to be a trip.

Major Lazer — *Major Lazer Frees the Universe*

Party music. From the man who brought you "Original Don," here is his Diplo produced album featuring the likes of Flux Pavillion,

Wyclef Jean, Bruno Mars and Rack City's favorite, Tyga. And if you don't buy it on iTunes, expect to hear a lot of this album next fall as the next Rack City is able to combine Tyga and Major Lazer.

J Dilla — *Music from the Lost Scrolls Vol. 1*

The greatest producer to ever touch an MPC may have left us just a few short years ago, but his legendary work ethic has yielded numerous posthumous releases, including the first installment of *Lost Scrolls* which was released this past Tuesday. I haven't had the chance to listen to it yet, but it will certainly be most dope. Dilla's occult hand crafted some of the best hip-hop soundscapes in the genre's history and even the residue of his storied career will likely be one of the best instrumental releases of the year.

OneRepublic — *Native*

When OneRepublic came out with *Waking Up* a couple of years ago, their music was almost impossible to avoid. That will probably happen again, for better or for worse, when *Native* is released on March 26. Fronted by Ryan Tedder, OneRepublic can be called anything from pop rock to alternative as Tedder has shown his versatility through all his features in the past year. Expect this album to be big, whether it should be or not.

Rumors that need to be true

Jay Z, Bon Jovi, Eminem, The Black Keys, Pearl Jam, Darius Rucker, StarF****r, The Strokes, David Bowie, Daughtry.

Rumors that need to die. Quickly.

Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Miranda Cosgrove, Backstreet Boys, Cher, Lil Wayne, Asking Alexandria.

Re-Kast: Keeping up with the Stankonians



Vicious Lies and Dangerous Labels

By Alex Floyd
Staff Writer

I want to love Big Boi's second solo effort *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors*. I want to love it like I would want to love Anna Kendrick placed in the female lead of a Coen brothers drama odyssey in which she is forced to go beyond both what she is comfortable doing and what we want her to do (still waiting on a call back, by the way, Anna). The right person is there, the right ambition is there, but the concept beside that is not where it needs to be. That is not to say it doesn't have its moments, but in a way that *Speakerboxx* and *Sir Luscious Left Foot* had a unified purpose (what Big Boi calls a "funk crusade"), *Lies* may be a bit too disjointed.

His two previous Andre-less albums relied heavily on slick, intricate wordplay and a healthy dose of "stank." That does not disappear entirely from *Lies*, but it could certainly be more prevalent. The sharp, layered production of *Sir Luscious* has given way to watered down, fuzzy synths that occasionally swallow up the drums (which usually give Big Boi a good launching pad for his jaunty flows). The same way, the hook work that does not come from samples points to another purpose intended for this album. Gone is George Clinton, to be replaced by Kid Cudi and Little Dragon, both of whom seem more at home over the electronic background than Big Boi does.

There are bright spots, of course. Flipping one of the more memorable lines from *Shutterbugg* ("I keep it playa while some choose to play it safe/ Boy check the resume it's risky business in the A" has been bouncing around in my head for a solid two years), *In the A* brings the mind back to his niche in OutKast—the gully half that freed Andre to be a dynamic (if a little out there) creative force. Ludacris' line "get stung like the Crocodile hunter" will also serve as the watershed moment of when it was no longer "too soon" to make offhand

comments about Steve Irwin. The same effect comes from *Gossip*, where another set of Southern rapper Superfriends—Big K.R.I.T., Bun B and his fellow Underground King Pimp C (R.I.P.)—convene and do their collective thing.

These moments of rare celebratory Southernness and Big Boi's still strong wordcraft seem to be diluted by vying for a more "modern" sound. Some of the features, some of the hooks, they all seem a bit forced and more than a little like something Def Jam pushed on him. I have a hard time believing Kid Cudi would have appeared on a Big Boi album by choice. That was a calculated decision—they will let you have *In the A* as long as you give back *She Hates Me*. Ironically enough, for all its engineered relevance, *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors* only did half the first week sales of *Sir Luscious* and cannot hold a candle to the oncetuple platinum, diamond success of *Speakerboxx/The Love Below*. Big Boi was undeniably more comfortable on those albums and as far as comfort goes, he's two for two on making classics (Yes, I think *Sir Luscious* is a classic. Want to fight about it?).

I don't want this to be a rant about label politics, but it has to be said that Def Jam needs to pony up and let Big Boi do as he pleases. It's a proven creative formula with astronomical results. For now, *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors* comes up short of that mantle. It is—after all—a decent album, but it could have been so much better. In the end, the quality struggles to buoy the mechanized mess of the rest of the album, but it keeps it closer to good than bad.

The world needs more Big Boi. Another album hopefully. Another OutKast album if we get really lucky. I've been saying the same thing for seven years now. Maybe I'll be right this time.

3 Waffles out of 5



The strange case of André Benjamin

By John Higham
Staff Writer

"She's better with some fella with a regular job"
—André 3000, "Pink Matter"

If you follow the strange tides of the hip-hop internet with any regularity, you know about "hustle." The word, at least in its current iteration, is devoid of the existential struggle of Jay-Z invoking it. What was once a term for initiative and work ethic has become a catch all for any annoying marketing activity in which a struggling rapper engages. Hustle may include (but is not limited to): starting "beef" with a quasi-rival to get the blogosphere going, using Twitter as a launching (read: annoying) pad for generating a false sense of celebrity, or (most importantly) putting out three twenty-track mixtapes in a calendar year and stealing every "hot" beat available to spit mediocre bars. This, despite being ineffective and infuriating, is the way of the hip-hop world for the vast majority of artists. Their struggle is expressed in a flood of sub-par topical references and bad punch lines.

The upper crust of the rappers generally don't have to "hustle" in the same way that their less successful counterparts do. They work on albums, they have a more moderated social media presence and they use their verses wisely. When your words are worth something, you tend not to flood the market, because—at least in theory—your sixteen bars are a bit more valuable than OJ Da Juiceman's. Call it picking your spots or what have you, but it is certainly not hustle. And that is a good thing. Verses no longer go toward generating excitement for some event in the future and become events themselves. It's growing up and watching your mouth.

Beyond those active, judicious artists there is a special cult of hermetic maestros whose verses are rare enough (and usually good enough) to be treated as the hip-hop second coming. They lead lives that are (comparatively) cloaked in secrecy. We hear from them only on occasion, and even

then it is a cryptic hint at something that hints at something else. The patron saint of these skittish creatures is André Lauren Benjamin (André 3000 when he does decide to rap). Originally the source of Dadaist verve for the mighty OutKast, Three Stacks has become a more shielded figure. Since the release of the soundtrack of *Idlewild* in 2006, his creative output has become sporadic and brilliant at the same time. He averages (roughly) a half-dozen verses every year and an appearance in a movie ever three (with the next such appearance being a gloriously cast Jimi Hendrix biopic slated for a 2013 release). The image in my head is that he spends his days sitting in a secret cave under Buckhead watching Hitchcock movies and listening to Charles Mingus. He has no need for the public eye (underrated fashion line and Gillette commercials excluded). He simply leads a normal life, aside from being (arguably) the most talented and (definitely) the most sought-after rapper alive.

Every verse that we do get, however, is an angular, inventive beauty that masks every other on the song—infinity rewindable, byzantine creations full of poetic technique and pensive wordplay. The arrangement and choice of his syllables and the way he flips common phrases in a single bound puts to shame the supposedly proven hustle. André has verified again and again that there is value in saying less, but saying it better. He has made art from words and let the game come to him, which is the simplest thing to say, but the hardest thing to do. The impulse, at least in the modern paradigm, is to fight obscurity with a flood of content. André reinforces his value every time he picks up a microphone. He proves that in eccentricity, there is the soul of a virtuoso, and even if he doesn't join us mere mortals as often as we might like, something is better than nothing.

The internet has been talking about a full LP from André since he went inactive. It may still happen yet. Stranger things have happened in the life of Mr. Benjamin.

Get your Pop Secret ready, here comes Oscar

By Will Glover
Staff Cinema Analyst

Will Glover dishes out the little gold men

Best Picture: A month ago, this award would have undoubtedly gone to *Lincoln*, which has eleven other nominations. With a director like Steven Spielberg and a star like Daniel Day Lewis, *Lincoln* is this year's "important" film that Oscar voters usually go crazy for. But major wins at the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards have made *Argo* the new pick to win. *Argo*'s director, Ben Affleck, was (controversially) not nominated for Best Director, which hurts the movie's chance of winning. In the history of the Oscars, only one movie has ever won Best Picture without receiving a Best Director nomination. Also consider *Silver Linings Playbook*, which was nominated in every acting category, the first movie in thirty-one years to do so.

The Frontrunner: *Lincoln*

My Favorite to Win: *Silver Linings Playbook*

Best Director: With Ben Affleck noticeably missing from this category, Steven Spielberg is all but assured a win. The most surprising nomination goes to Benh Zeitlin, who directed the breathtaking indie *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. It's easily the most imaginative and visionary film of the year, as it tells the story of Hushpuppy, a girl who struggles to learn the ways of the world in a post-apocalyptic Louisiana bayou. It's a work of unquestionable genius. And for Benh Zeitlin, in his directorial debut, the nomination itself is the real win.

The Frontrunner: Steven Spielberg

My Favorite to Win: Benh Zeitlin



SILVER LININGS INTERPLAYBOOK: *Silver Linings* duo Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence are prominent Oscar nominees. Our Will Glover has tapped Lawrence for Best Actress, while he has Cooper falling short to Joaquin Phoenix for Best Actor

Best Actor: Let's review some Academy Award math: Daniel Day Lewis = Oscar gold. No question about it. His portrayal of Abraham Lincoln has racked up every major acting award so far, making the British-born actor incontestable. But to be sure, the other nominees are equally worthy. Bradley Cooper gives the performance of his career in *Silver Linings Playbook*. Hugh Jackman sings his heart out in *Les Mis*. But the real standout is Joaquin Phoenix in *The Master*. He gives a challenging performance as a disillusioned WWII vet who's lured into a cult-like movement called "The Cause." Phoenix's incomparable ability to elevate his craft is undeniable.

The Frontrunner: Daniel Day Lewis

My Favorite to Win: Joaquin Phoenix

Best Supporting Actor: All five nominees are already Oscar winners, and this category is wide open. Christoph Waltz in *Django Unchained* won the Golden Globe, and Tommy Lee Jones in *Lincoln* won the SAG award. Look to the Best Picture as an indicator: if *Lincoln* wins, so will Tommy Lee Jones. If *Argo* keeps gaining momentum, Alan Arkin, who had a hilarious supporting role in *Argo*, could easily sneak in to steal the win. My pick is Robert De Niro in *Silver Linings Playbook*: the legendary actor is sixty-nine years old, and he's still producing some of the finest work of his career.

The Frontrunner: Tommy Lee Jones

My Favorite to Win: Robert de Niro

Best Actress: This race is between Jessica Chastain and Jennifer Lawrence, both of whom were compared this year to Meryl Streep. And they both deserve the comparison. Jessica Chastain in *Zero Dark Thirty* plays Maya, a CIA agent who spends ten years leading the hunt for Osama bin Laden. Chastain brilliantly portrays a woman whose life is dangerously consumed by her obsessions. *Zero Dark Thirty* is a spectacle, and unfortunately, the movie seems almost too big for her performance. On the other hand, Jennifer Lawrence is at the very heart of *Silver Linings Playbook*. Lawrence plays a recovering sex addict, Tiffany, who has just lost her job. And as an actress, Lawrence's quirky spontaneity and unusual intelligence make her performance an instant classic.

Frontrunner & My Favorite to Win: Jennifer Lawrence

Best Supporting Actress: With her highly acclaimed rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream," Anne Hathaway solidified her position as this year's Best Supporting Actress. In *Les Misérables*, Hathaway plays Fantine, a woman who is forced to abandon her child and later becomes a prostitute. It's a shockingly visceral performance. I didn't really enjoy the movie, since the brash aesthetic is so overdone that it's distracting. I also laughed when Russell Crowe threw himself off a bridge, and then realized it wasn't supposed to be funny. But I would watch it again, if only to see Anne Hathaway in all of her magnificence.

The Frontrunner & My Favorite to Win: Anne Hathaway

Schumach-ing a name for himself

By Steve Wood
Staff Writer

In past years, Mr. KJ Schumacher, MBA alumnus and current art teacher, had achieved some notoriety for his artwork in the Nashville area after graduating from MBA. In the last year, his work has exploded in the national art community. Since April 2012, Schumacher's work has been displayed in Los Angeles and Miami. His art was recently featured on ABC's *Nashville* and will soon appear in Showtime's *House of Lies*. These achievements, combined with an increase in art sales, have made the past year what Schumacher calls his "biggest year yet." What's more impressive, he accomplished these things just after the birth of his new baby girl in 2011.

Schumacher began making art in his 10th grade year at MBA when he took Art 1 with Mr. Womack. In the following years before his graduation in 1997, Schumacher worked with a group of four other AP students in the Lequire Room (Davis 35), which he describes as an "AP Studio." To his knowledge, each of these students have pursued careers in art, including Andrew Smaldone, who teaches at a school in Florence, Italy, and Joe Montgomery, whose art has recently emerged in the New York and international art scene. Though the AP studio work was certainly influential in his



EASTER EGG: *Mr. Schumacher's* work shared the screen with Hayden Panettiere. No report on whether his other pieces were jealous.

development as an artist, Schumacher points to Mr. Womack's AP Art History class as one of the best classes he took at MBA.

In his senior year, Schumacher was awarded five major art awards, including the Art Purchase Award from MBA as well as three scholarships. One of these, the Presidential Art Scholarship from George Washington University, he won four consecutive years from 1997 to 2000. After studying at the Parsons School of Design in Paris, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from George Washington University in 2001.

As Schumacher began to make a name for himself, he focused increasingly

on artwork in the style of American Abstract Expressionism, citing Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Barnett Newman, and Richard Diebenkorn as major influences. His current work focuses on what he calls "studio remnants," that is, the colors and shapes left over after a project such as printmaking. When asked about how he came upon this subject matter, he said, "I just kept taking out what didn't matter to me... until there was nothing left but the studio remnants." Schumacher attempts to make bold statements with color, line and heavy amounts of paint. He wants the viewer to feel some sort of interaction with the art, as if "swimming through the paint, not just

looking at the picture."

Schumacher now spends about 10 to 12 hours a week in his Cherokee Park studio near Nashville's historic Germantown neighborhood. When school is out, his studio time escalates to 35 to 40 hours a week. Because he teaches classes at MBA and now has a daughter to take care of at night, Schumacher typically works in his studio between four and six o'clock in the morning.

Schumacher's success has taken a huge upturn since April of last year. In April, he established a solo exhibit at the Aran Cravey Gallery near Venice Beach in Los Angeles, California. Most of his current sales come from the LA gallery. A couple of months after the start of his LA exhibit, Schumacher was sought out by the producers of ABC's *Nashville*, who wanted to source artwork for the show directly from Nashville. His work is also set to appear in Showtime's *House of Lies*, which premiered on January 8, 2013 and stars Don Cheadle and Kristen Bell.

Schumacher has big plans for the future. He says he will likely begin selling through a dealer in Nashville soon. He also mentions that he is working to initiate business with dealers in Atlanta and Seattle. Ultimately, though, Schumacher is looking to enter the more international art community through the New York market.



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ENDADA Mid-YEAR REPORT

By Lucas Littlejohn
Chief Endada-ist

Ladies and gentlemen, the official Endada mid-year report: we are doing pretty well. I won't give away too many details about this year's festivities, but how could you be disappointed the day-of when you're holding a Grilled Cheeserie and a Jarritos from Mas Tacos?

My vision for this year's festival has been all about getting back to the basics. Back to the ideals, the mission of Endada in the first place: to host a community- and student-friendly celebration of music, art, sunny weather, food trucks and the summer's soon arrival. The root of this celebration is the high school student. The goal of the almost entirely adolescent-run event on the Hill is to celebrate the talents, however quirky, of teens at MBA and in Nashville.

The past heads did a truly outstanding job creating the festival. Their drive to build such a large event is unparalleled, and their success took many by surprise. Without their commitment, Endada would not have grown in size and popularity to what it is today. While I as head of Endada hope to continue the legacy of Jamie, Aaron, Preston, and Noah, I also understand that their interests differ from mine, and thus the personality of the festival itself will be slightly different.

This year I have reemphasized the following two areas: proactivity and high-school involvement. Last year, a few too many people procrastinated a little bit

too much and quite a bit of work was put off until the week leading up to the event. I'm staying realistic while encouraging everyone to stay on top of responsibilities sooner than later. Also, the previous heads were deeply involved in the Nashville underground music scene, and their interest translated into a number of "professional" bands headlining the past two festivals. True, Diarrhea Planet (who might be making an appearance this April under an enigmatic new name, but if anyone asks, I didn't tell you) got me more hype than probably anyone else in attendance, but this year we are focusing on high school talent. That's not to say we won't feature any adult bands, just that Music Committee heads Coleman Sorenson and John Higham and I aren't pursuing these Nashville-native musicians with the zeal that Jamie, Aaron, Preston and Noah did.

So while the mechanics of Endada are changing ever so slightly, the essence of the five-hour event that takes a year to plan remains the same. Good times, good dudes. If that model is achieved on April 27th, 2013, with enough motivation to continue for the upcoming years when Jamie, Aaron, Preston, Noah and I are all dead and gone, we will have succeeded. We hope to see you there.

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VARIED COMPOSITION: Lucas checks in with an update on everyone's favorite music festival

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: *NATHAN FOUTS*

GOLDEN PIPES



WORKING ON MY OWN STUFF: Nathan balances his solo career with a high achieving choral career. In all facets of his time spent singing, his control and tonality are without equal, as his many honors will illustrate **PARRISH PRESTON//BR**

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

Every month, I interview a different MBA artist (or musician, performing artist, etc.) to celebrate the incredible talent of our artists on the hill. The subject of this issue's Artist Spotlight is senior Nathan Fouts. With a set of pipes that will silence an assembly full of adolescent boys, Nathan is one of the secret weapons of MBA's singing program. He even won a Wilson Fine Arts Grant for a singing program this past summer. A great singer and an all-around swell dude.

Bell Ringer: What got you involved in singing at MBA?

Nathan Fouts: I started choir 7th grade, back when Dr. Cassel was still teaching, honestly as a joke and easy class. I thought I wasn't bad so I just did it. I didn't get serious into singing, however, until about 10th grade when Mr. Smyth became

director. So I attribute it to him and the fact that everyone else in the Big Red Chorus bass section was pretty much asleep. My passion progressed from there into all-state seats and whatnot. BEST BASS IN THE STATE 2013!

BR: What has been your favorite singing opportunity so far at MBA?

NF: My favorite opportunity was the creation of Chamber Choir. This was interesting because choir started to gain some respect and it sounded good sometimes, as compared to the collection of whale mating calls that is Big Red Chorus. I also enjoyed the All-State Choir Competition last year in Chattanooga where John Elam and myself got our own hotel room and pretty much just hit the town. As well as got to know the many faces of Matt Smyth.

BR: What do you do to keep the pipes sounding good?

NF: Vocal exercises. I like touching my toes so I can get a head rush and get dizzy. Drink gatorade. I think really the only thing I actually do is wake up at least an hour and a half before I sing. Which is difficult for those 5 am breakfasts that no one knows the point of. Maybe just sing to some Kid Cudi as I drive there. If I can sing along to *Ghost!* I know I'm set.

BR: Are you interested in pursuing singing past high school?

NF: I am hoping to pursue music after high school. At the surface this sounds lovely, but the actual means of becoming a successful musician is quite frowned upon by the adult population, seeing that my \$20,000 tuition would be for nothing even if it worked out. And gap years are unheard of! Though never said directly considering past incidences, I have the feeling some out there believe I will be a washed-up failure, so that's always an encouraging fall-back plan. But to please the parents I have

auditions for the Frost School of music in Miami, Florida and Berklee in Boston for voice/songwriting.

BR: The MBA Chamber Choir has had some serious success recently. What do you need to do to keep it up?

NF: Honestly the potential is always there. It's really just up to the new kids coming in. Being a singer at an all-boys school seems like Social suicide—especially when again Big Red Chorus tries to make it seem cool to sound terrible consistently. The members just need to remember that we are an ensemble, which means together, as Cassel would always hound. And that we work to create a, like, I don't know, a quilt of sound not just some silly string.

Turn to the Entertainment Section of the next issue for another riveting installment of Artist spotlight

Rockettown personnel decision causes stir

By Cole Harrison
Staff Writer

On Martin Luther King, Jr. day, the same day that Barack Obama was inaugurated for his second term as our president, Wes Breedwell, a seven-year employee of local music venue Rockettown, posted a picture on his Instagram saying that he was fired for his beliefs in gay marriage. Breedwell was pictured wearing the shirt of punk band Hostage Calm with a slogan on the back saying, "We Support Same Sex Marriage."

The band released a statement on their Facebook page letting their fans know of the incident. Breedwell informed a band member that being fired was part of "a long pattern of discrimination against him for not being Christian and for supporting marriage equality."

Along with the band's statement was a picture of Breedwell's "employee discipline notice." A comment on the notice

read, "You cannot wear a shirt to work on an office day or a show day supporting same sex marriage."

The notice also stated that, "It is imperative that our beliefs are not personal or presented [at] work that contradict the mission. Future action will be based on the action but will include suspension or termination." The employee signature line, which shows that the employee acknowledges his or her conduct, is unsigned.

Rockettown is a nonprofit youth outreach center and music venue. The organization gives youths a chance to be in a safe and drug-free environment. The building has a coffee bar, a skate park, and multiple buildings to hold shows. The venue is known for hosting many popular metal, hardcore, and punk bands. Rockettown has released a statement saying:

"Rockettown does not comment on personnel issues, but generally speaking, an employee would not be fired for expressing

opinions on marriage. At Rockettown we are welcoming and accepting of all youth. We reach out to all kids, are inclusive and very much care about acceptance of youth from different ethnicities, sexual orientations, financial backgrounds and religions. Our mission is to provide a safe and drug-free environment where kids are welcomed, accepted, and loved."

The venue has been known to enforce their beliefs on the bands playing the venue. The venue has a strict "no foul language" policy, and bands playing are required to submit the lyrics of their songs to a committee that will deem them worthy to play. Multiple groups, like hardcore bands Chelsea Grin, Asking Alexandria, and Motionless in White, have been banned from playing the venue for having an image that did not fit well with the venue.

The news of the Rockettown controversy has spread to many bands from the punk scene. Many bands that have played the venue in the past have released

statements encouraging their fans to boycott the venue. New Jersey pop punk outfit Man Overboard moved their show scheduled in March from the venue. Frontman Tyler Carter of post-hardcore band Issues used the situation to reveal himself as bisexual, and threatened not to play in their upcoming show at Rockettown with punk band A Day to Remember. Very recently, the singer of the band Volumes got in a fight with the security guards and a member of Music City Booking at Rockettown for denouncing the gay marriage issue.

Rockettown has caused some issues in the music scene for their actions before, but this is the biggest controversy yet. Because of the statements from Breedwell and Hostage Calm and Rockettown's decision to not comment on the issue, there are many uncertainties involved. There is no certainty to which side is correct.



By Alex Floyd
and McKay Proctor
Staff Yeezyologists

KIM-B-YE

THE WEST CHILD COMETH



In case you've been living under a soundproof rock for the last forever, the genius voice of our generation (Kanye West) is having a child by Kris Humphreys' wife who is famous for some reason (Kim Kardashian). There is a 50/50 chance that it will be a boy, and a 50/50 chance it will be a neurotic creative genius (that's how genetics works, if memory serves). There is just as good a chance it could be a girl, or have the IQ of used dish soap, but Kanye has beaten longer odds in his career (dude wore a leather skirt on stage and survived!). Under that scenario, it would be wise for Headmaster Gioia to start politicking now to get this bab-ye in the Class of 2032. The only problem is, we may have to make some changes. Onward to opulence and ballerism!

All Gold Everything

In the bathroom that is. We can only assume, given his parentage, that this child will be prepared for only the finest in bathroom fixtures. This would be a major pitch point to distinguish ourselves from others (assuming the school is competing with other academ-yes). Especially since it will make Kanye feel at home on his tour.

Ballet Team

Yeezy loves a good dancer; his spawn will probably feel the same way. The major hurdle here is that our entire ballet team would likely be male. The solution: Montgomery Bell-et Academ-ye. A college preparatory school for ballet dancers. If we understand correctly, all you need is a big artsy warehouse with green walls and, like, thirteen women to have a team of ballerinas that follow you around. Can't be all that hard. Kanye will have a base of talent for all of his future forty-minute music videos and Little Yeezy will have a stable dating pool of "I-like-art-type-girls." This new initiative also solves several other issues on campus. First, it gives us legitimate grounds to bring Mila Kunis in as a guest speaker on the rigorous physical training of world class dancers. Second, it would give us something to do with all the tutus are left over from Coach Bower's practice regimen (footwork is everything).

Rethink Our Nickname

Sure, "Big Red" is cool and all, but it may need to be a little more out there to impress an internationally recognized megagenius (Kim can be won over with anything that is shiny, we aren't worried about her). The Montgomery Bell Academy Expressionism has a nice ring to it. Maybe the MBA Tribe Called K-West? The Fighting unpronounceable symbols (like Prince or the Player Formerly Known as Mouscop)? The Thrones? The Illuminati? Too far? Too far. Ok.

Before we move on, we would probably also need to reconsider our colors. Maybe Chinchilla Fur and Platinum? Or Louis Vuitton Handbag and Leopard Skin? Which reminds us....



I'M JUST SAYING: *Assembl-yes just got that much better*

Change the Dress Code

This is more than a little bit essential. Considering this kid will spend his summers in Milan, we may need to make allowance for more than a little bit of experimentation. I mean, Kanye circa-2003 actually looks like an MBA student (Khakis, Rugby shirt, pastel sweater, diamond-encrusted Jesus Piece). We need to blow the doors off this thing. Pretty much, as long as you remain decent and can be misconstrued as high-fashion it's in bounds. Keep in mind that within the last six months, Kanye has performed (while taking himself seriously) in an owl mask. We need to be flexible enough to encompass both the Rosewood and the Pastelle here, with everything in between. Refer back to Professor of Fly Alex Floyd's article last issue about not being fashion robots. SLACKERS!

Change the Required Reading

Reading is a loose term. What we really mean to say is listening. The school can't expect to hold the attention of the heir to The Throne with *Silas Marner*. We need to inject our canon with a lil somethin-somethin. We think a good place to start would be Grandmaster Flash, Slick Rick, and everything Rakim made before *The Letter R*. This actually opens up a scenario in which Mr. Moxley tells us whether he thinks *3 Feet High and Rising* or *De La Soul is Dead* is the better album

Performance Criteria

It is required that *Lil'Ye* perform a guest verse on every single choral piece and jazz band song so he can practice his superstardom. This much is nonnegotiable.

Goblets in the Dining Hall

Anyone who follows Yeezy on Twitter can tell you that he enjoys the finer dishware in life. Realistically speaking, we can phase in our high-class cups as a "measure in sustainabilit-ye" and cut the paper cups entirely. As far as shape and size, something with just enough of the weight of a chalice with the airy shape of a champagne flute should achieve the optimum mix of opulence and class. The addition of Perrier couldn't hurt either.

SportsBall

No, in all likelihood Bab-Ye won't play sports. Kanye wasn't/isn't/never will be an athlete. But that won't stop the Louis Vuitton Don from designing some spankin' new jerseys, because ain't nobody fresher than Baby-Ye's future clique. We can assume that Kanye will toss the Under Armor away and, like the majority of Kanye West's fashion designs, the sporting uniforms will have excess amounts on animal fur, most likely mink, or tiger. Can you imagine playing Ensworth with our players wearing basketball shoes lined with tiger fur? Yeah... Ensworth... we wear

tigers for socks, but anyhow... Kanye will also become coach of every MBA sport.... except Crew....crew. Become hilariously involved to the point of recruiting baby Kevin Durant, baby Lebron, baby Tom Brady (or maybe Baby Gisele is more fitting because she obviously wears the pants in the relationship), and Baby Adrian Peterson only to struggle with the same issue the Lakers are having this year which will frustrate Kanye to no end, causing him to make an LP called *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy Team* which sells extremely well and he donates to MBA to build the Baby Ye Shrine in which he will have every paper Baby-Ye has ever written pinned to the wall along with Baby-Ye's first lost diamond tooth and Baby-Ye's first pair of Kanye Glasses.

Best Homecoming EVER!

Ok, so at this point hopefully Miss Teaff at Harpeth Hall will have done her homework and recruited Blue Ivy Carter to adorn the plaid. She and BabYe would of course be homecoming dates and Homecoming King and Queen for the rest of eternity (until they become rulers of the universe and rename Mars "Beyoncé" and Pluto "Taylor Swift", because she isn't worthy of being a planet). The homecoming budget would be increased to something around \$500,000 and Kanye will proceed to perform only 808's and Heartbreaks for three plus hours and then. once everyone has left he will continue to perform it in the empty theater all by himself until dawn. MBA, this needs to happen, pleeeassee. Although if this were a guarantee, I'm having a kid right now this very minute so he can be in BabYe's class.

Allowing interruptions in assembl-ye

If it is really "like father like son", we can expect bi-monthly hijackings of assembly to talk about whatever concerns the Spawn of West at that moment. The glorious thing about it is the possible scope of the rambling. He could talk about anything he wanted. Every week would be the best assembly ever. "Ayo, Mr.Gioia, I'ma letchu finish, but the Thorium dude was the best assembly speaker OF ALL TIME!"

Keeping up with the Kardashians as Kim becomes Empress of the Mother's Club.

Kim Kardashian of Ray J fame stars in a new series about the Kardashian taking control of an assemblage of mother-activists on the campus of a prestigious prep school. She will conduct the entirety of the Mother's Club's business through her lieutenants- Kourtney's adorable baby and Scott Dissek's ascot. The bake sale will be a televised unmitigated disaster (but in truth, we think that no one group should have all that flour). The spaghetti supper prizes will be Smartwater, glitter eyeliner, Season 5 of KIWITK on DVD and coupons for her perfume. She would run the club with an iron fist- no opposition, no hope. She will smite all of those that may stand in the way of her glorious reign over the most powerful body on campus. All will love her and despair. It's gonna be like.... really cool ok.



TWIRL TEAM: *The Montgomery Bellarinas put in work in practice in the new Donda West Memorial Big Open Warehouse. Coach Ye is pleased*